Man gets 36-month probation for hiding $20K in luggage. » PAGE 3

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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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11 DAYS BEFORE Christmas

Dynasty owner files for bankruptcy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd., the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, filed on Friday in federal court a Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

Saipan Tribune learned that attorney Timothy H. Bellas filed the bankruptcy petition on behalf of HKE.

Details of the petition were not available as of press time because the petition was filed late Friday afternoon in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Saipan Tribune contacted Bellas for comments but he has yet to reply.

Chapter 11 allows a debtor (in this case, Hong Kong Entertain-

See DYNASTY on Page 4

CNMI TO AIR FORCE:
'Withdraw plans for divert on Saipan'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Torres asks Air Force to honor Covenant; begin negotiations for Tinian-only

The CNMI government insisted Friday for the U.S. Air Force to withdraw its plan to build a divert airfield on Saipan. According to the joint offices of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, the Air Force's repeated desire to acquire more lands on Saipan runs counter to the legal foundations of the CNMI's relationship with the United States. Instead, the CNMI government on Friday pointed to the two-thirds of land already leased on Tinian for defense purposes, for this divert airfield.

See WITHDRAW on Page 4

Reservist allegedly stole $9,000 in referral bonuses

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A member of the U.S. Army Reserves who is also a teacher was indicted in federal court for allegedly stealing referral bonuses from the U.S. Army Reserves totaling $9,000 by fraudulently claiming that he recruited five potential soldiers.

The indictment charged Jordan M. Jucutan with theft of government property, five counts of aggravated identity theft, and nine counts of wire fraud.

A federal grand jury indicted Jucutan on Friday. Assistant U.S. attorney Russell Lorfing filed the indictment in the U.S. District Court for the NMI that same day.

According to the indictment, Jucutan took advantage of the

See RESERVIST on Page 4

Tubera siblings win big in CNMI's Got Talent

Ericafaye Tubera performs a soulful yet upbeat *Last Christmas I Gave You My Heart,* winning her the grand prize of $2,500. Other photo shows 9-year-old Lawrence Tubera being presented with his prizes after getting the judges' nod for second place. DAISY DEMAPAN

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A pair of siblings beat out an array of other talented young singers and dancers on Saturday night to take top honors in this year's edition of the CNMI's Got Talent competition at the Pacific Islands Club Magellan.

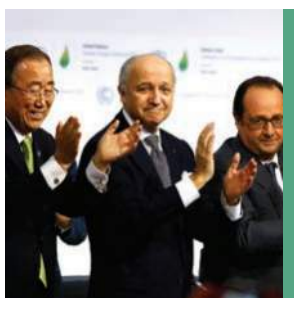
Older sister Ericafaye Tubera played the piano with R&B spunk, performing a soulful yet upbeat medley of *Last Christmas I Gave You My Heart* to take the top prize in the annual contest, while 9-year-old Lawrence Tubera performed *I Saw Mama Kissing Santa Claus* with a youthful innocence that commanded the crowd's attention and the judges' nod for second place.

The siblings bagged separate wins for their solos, with Lawrence Tubera receiving the Governor's Choice Award

See TUBERA on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Chacha Oceanview is hoping to retain its titles in the Christmas in the Marianas Festival.
» PAGE 10



WORLD
Nearly 200 nations adopt in Paris the first global pact to fight climate change.
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LIFE & STYLE
Banksy has taken on the migrant crisis in a new mural at a migrant camp in France.
» PAGE 20

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Local

Officials cut ribbon for Ironwood Saipan as housing complex opens

Northern Marianas Housing Corp. director Jesse Palacios celebrates the opening of Ironwood during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday.

DAISY DEMAPAN

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Government officials and other agencies celebrated the opening of Ironwood Saipan during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the islands' newest housing complex on Thursday.

The complex was made possible through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program that gives incentives for the use of private equity in the development of low-income housing. The program is implemented in the CNMI by the Northern Marianas Corp.

NMHC director Jesse Palacios stated that one of the most fundamental building blocks of a stable life is a place to live.

"NMHC is mandated to provide the community with safe, decent and sanitary places to live. Through the housing tax credit program and thanks to Ironwood Saipan, we are meeting that mandate," he said.

Noting the housing difficulties many residents faced after Typhoon Soudelor hit in August, Palacios said the complex passed the ultimate safety test by withstanding the wind forces of the typhoon and storms that have come through the island.

"This new housing community will greatly enhance Saipan's aging housing stock and curb appeal, similar to what Sandy Beach Homes has accomplished. We are proud to say that this is what a housing tax credit project looks like and this is what the community should expect from future developers of affordable housing," he said.

Palacios said the tax program produces high quality housing with affordable rent and encourages private investment in rental housing in locations where investment would normally not take place.

Palacios gave credit to Rick Inman, John Hand, Carlos Camacho and other Ironwood associates for playing a pivotal role in introducing the tax credit program to the CNMI.

"They, along with our sister agency, Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority, assisted NMHC in putting together our policies and procedures and in connecting us with [IRS and key federal officials] so that we could administer the program here," he said.

Palacios shared that Ironwood was instrumental in the Sandy Beach Homes development but now has become the CNMI's first housing tax credit project.

In attendance to celebrate Thursday's occasion was acting governor Ralph Torres, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro, Rep. BJ Attao, Rep. Ralph Yumul, and other dignitaries.

Ironwood Saipan, located in Gualo Rai on Middle Road, offers two-, three-, and four-bedroom apartments featuring typhoon shutters, full appliances, solid surface countertops and porcelain tile floors, washer and dryer connections, and reverse osmosis filtered water, a basketball court and playground with areas for tenant gatherings, built-in grills, and a community center.

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Man gets 36-month probation for hiding $20K in luggage

The federal court on Friday imposed a 36-month probation sentence on Delin Ma, who was arrested by federal agents at the Francisco C. Ada Saipan International Airport for concealing $20,000 in his hand-carried luggage while bound for Shanghai, China.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered that the $23,000 seized from Ma at the time of his arrest be forfeited for the U.S. government.

The $3,294 that Ma was carrying on his person at the time of his arrest shall be returned to him.

During his probation, Ma will be required to perform 50 hours of community service. He will also be prohibited from possessing and using controlled substances. However, the mandatory drug testing condition will be waived as the 52-year-old Ma's history indicates a low risk to use a controlled substance.

He was ordered to immediately pay the $100 special assessment fee after the sentencing.

Manglona advised Ma that the court agreed with his counsel's arguments and that he was not subject to any immigration order from the court.

Assistant U.S. attorney Russell Lorfing recommended a sentence at the low end of the sentencing guideline range.

Benjamin Petersburg, the court-appointed counsel for Ma, agreed with the U.S. Probation's recommendation of a probation sentence.

Attorney Mark Hanson, co-counsel of Petersburg, said a three-year probation sentence is more than enough, given Ma's personal history, his honesty, and his first-time offender status.

Hanson said the presentence investigation report details Ma's personal history and shows he has led a simple and hardworking life.

Hanson said Ma was a farmer in China and moved to the CNMI in order to better support his family.

Ma has been in the CNMI since 1997 and that during all that time, he has been employed and earned an income to support himself and his family. Ma has no criminal history.

Hanson said Ma was stopped at the Saipan airport on his way back to China for his son's wedding.

"Ma admits that he was not forthcoming with CBP agents when he failed to declare all of the currency he had with him at the airport," Hanson said.

Hanson said Ma stated that he was scared at the time, and that it was the first time he had carried money through the airport in this fashion.

"While we do not seek to downplay the offense, we do note that it is non-violent and that Mr. Ma did actually declare the currency on his person," he said.

A criminal complaint charged Ma with bulk cash smuggling. He posted a $10,000 secured bond for his temporary release. He subsequently pleaded guilty.

A federal grand jury later indicted Ma with one count of bulk cash smuggling out of the United States. The indictment also sought to forfeit the $26,294 that was seized from Ma at the airport.

Under the currency reporting laws, a person is required to report any amount of currency $10,000 and over when traveling out of or into the U.S.

According to Department of Homeland Security-Homeland Security Investigations special agent Michael D. Lansangan, Sichuan Airlines flight 3U-8648 was scheduled to depart Saipan last Feb. 13 and fly directly to Shanghai.

Ma allegedly declared a little over $6,000 and a little over 1,000 Chinese RMB to him both verbally and in writing, by completing a Customs and Border Protection form.

Ma later allegedly admitted that the money was not his, but belonged to a person named "Zheng Xiaolong" who owned "L&M Market."

According to Lansangan, Ma stated that the $20,000 retrieved from his luggage was given to him by his boss, Shaorong Zeng, who operates the LN Market.

Ma stated that Zeng told him she had borrowed the money from a person in China named Maiying Xu and needed to pay back the loan.

Lansangan said Ma also stated that because he was so scared of losing Zeng's money, or having it taken or stolen from him, he took the envelopes and hid them in his pants before packing them into his luggage. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

'Watershed moment in fight vs climate change'

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) issued the following statement regarding the global agreement to fight climate change that was adopted in Paris Saturday:

"Today marks a watershed moment in the fight against climate change—and it's one we can all be proud of. The success of the Paris Climate Summit is truly a monumental moment in the history of the world.

"For the first time in history, the world has come together to action to prevent the worst impacts of climate change and to affirm that clean energy is the future. Paris sets the solid foundation for more climate progress. And as we move toward more ambitious action in the decade ahead, we must ensure that America and the Northern Mariana Islands are equipped to lead in the clean energy economy. We must continue to work reducing carbon pollution, lower energy bills, and protect the air our children breathe. ***(PR)***

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Navy re-awards Guam Base Operating Support Services contract

PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific awarded a $39.6 million cost-plus-award-fee contract with award options to DZSP 21 LLC, a large business of Marlton, New Jersey, for base operating support services at Joint Region Marianas, Guam, on Dec. 4. The maximum dollar value including the base period, four option periods, three award option periods and a six-month services extension is $488.3 million.

"A tremendous amount of diligence and teamwork went into this procurement action," said NAVFAC Marianas Commanding Officer Capt. Stephanie Jones. "Our dedicated teams are to be commended for the award of this BOS contract that will greatly enhance our ability to effectively and efficiently support our joint military customers' mission success in the areas of operations, maintenance and facility support."

The work to be performed provides for facility support and base operations support for the following services: management and administration, port operations, ordnance, material management, facility management, facility investment, electrical, wastewater, steam, water, base support vehicles and equipment, and environmental.

Work will be performed in various locations on Guam and is expected to be completed by June 2024. This contract was competitively procured via Navy Electronic Commerce Online website with eight proposals received. The contract action is a re-award as a result of corrective action taken due to Government Accountability Office protest. ***(USN)***

IN APPRECIATION

Salvation Army Pastor Wayne Gillespie and wife Annie, rightmost, present a plaque of appreciation to Bridge Capital LLC executives for their contributions during Typhoon Soudelor recovery efforts. From left, Bridge Capital COO Jody Jordahl, director of business development Shawn A. Scott, and CEO John K. Baldwin.

DAISY DEMAPAN

WITHDRAW

From Page 1

"The CNMI has acted in accordance with its end of the agreement," acting governor Ralph DLG Torres said in his letter Friday, referring to the CNMI Covenant and its accompanying legal texts. "The United States has not."

Torres said the divert project now threatens to undo the touchstone agreement upon which the people of the Northern Marianas Islands agreed to join the American family of states.

The Friday letter serves as the Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor's official comments to the Air Force's revised divert airfield project, for which environmental impact documents were released for public scrutiny last October.

U.S. Air Force officials have insisted that their revised plans for a project on Saipan—and another option called the "hybrid plan," to split this project between Saipan and Tinian—have resulted in a smaller footprint on the scope of the project.

Fighter aircraft and their associated munitions from the original plan have been completely eliminated, the Air Force has said, with only aircraft likened to commercial airplanes flying in to Saipan for refueling.

Planned exercise flights have been reduced by more than 60 percent, the Air Force said, and the "hybrid option" would distribute operations between Saipan and Tinian and locate the majority of development on Tinian.

But Torres, in his letter, says the Air Force has missed the point.

"The Air Force's effort to deconflict the competing use problem and to design the facility it wants to build on Saipan in such a way as to allow future development misses the larger, more significant point," Torres said.

'Controlling legal documents'

In his letter, Torres acknowledges that the Air Force and other military interests for basing or training are particularly strong at the moment, given recent geopolitical developments, and the CNMI islands' strategic location in the Western Pacific.

However, Torres argued that the founding officials of the CNMI government and their U.S. counterparts foresaw this exact turn of events when they negotiated the Covenant to establish the CNMI nearly 40 years ago.

The CNMI government entered into the Covenant agreement, and provided two-thirds of the island of Tinian and the entire island Farallon de Medinilla to the United States for military defense relations training and joint service air base activity purposes.

Torres said that "to counter any intentions or need to acquire additional real property in the CNMI, the United States agreed to 'respect the scarcity and special importance of land in the Northern Marianas Islands' in future developments and put in place a policy limiting eminent domain powers."

He said this agreement to "restrict military activities to FDM and Tinian" is contained not only in the Covenant, but also in additional legal documents and leases.

Those documents also include a "Technical Agreement" that promised a future military-civilian society on Tinian, with shared movie theaters and access to the amenities of a planned base, among others. But these benefits—or a base—have never been realized, some 40 years after the fact.

The same leased lands are now eyed by the U.S. Marine Corps for high-impact live firing ranges.

Torres said Tinian "was ultimately going to benefit"—for leasing two-thirds of the island to the United States for 100 years—through this air base and its resulting infrastructure improvements.

"The CNMI has a good faith basis to expect that the divert project should be located entirely on the island of Tinian and, despite our repeated efforts to dissuade the military from including Saipan in its plan, the Revised DEIS continues to do so," Torres said.

Begin negotiations

Torres said that because the "Tinian-only" divert option continues to be discounted by the military due to "monetary costs and timing reasons," the CNMI must against "re-assert its limited sovereignty."

"…And determination that defense related activities should be located on Tinian as explicitly intended and set out in the Covenant, the technical agreement, and the real property leases," he added.

Torres asked that the military withdraw the Air Force's modified Saipan alternative, and the hybrid modified alternative.

"The military's desire to locate the divert project on Saipan places the CNMI in an awkward and uncomfortable position of appearing to oppose or obstruct the United States' defense related responsibilities in the NMI," Torres said. "This is not true."

He writes that—as the modified Tinian alternative will require additional property rights through a lease agreement for the divert airport facility and training location—the CNMI is ready to begin negotiations toward that end.

RESERVIST

From Page 1

Army Reserve Recruiting Assistance Program, which is designed to offer cash incentives to Army Reserve soldiers—known as recruiter assistants—to recruit other individuals to serve in the U.S. Army Reserves.

If a potential soldier, known as a "nominee," signed an enlistment contract, the recruiting assistant who recruited that nominee would receive a $1,000 payment. The Army reservist would get an additional $1,000 if his or her nominee attends basic training.

From August 2007 until November 2009, Jucutan allegedly stole $9,000 in referral bonus payments for five potential Army Reserve soldiers, using their names and Social Security numbers. Jucutan allegedly obtained personal information from these potential soldiers without their knowledge or consent when they presented to take the ASVAB test in the CNMI.

According to the indictment, Jucutan falsely claimed that he was responsible for referring and recruiting these five potential soldiers to join the Army Reserves. This allowed him to obtain fraudulent recruiting referral bonuses totaling $9,000.

TUBERA

From Page 1

and first runner-up for a total of $3,000 and sister Ericafaye Tubera taking home the grand prize of $2,500.

The siblings, who credited their vocal talent to their mother, said they started singing when they were just toddlers. They said they will be using their cash prizes to help their family this holiday season.

The competition was again organized this year by international investment banking and asset management company Bridge Capital, LLC.

Second runner-up was 10-member band Out of the Ordinary, performing a mash-up of classic Christmas songs.

Third runner-up was Bonnie Gio Sagana with his inspirational take on the *Magic of Christmas*, while fourth runner-up Juliet Inocencio sang an emotional *Merry Little Christmas*.

Bringing soul to the floor with a vocal range similar to that of Adele's was Best from Tinian winner Nikita Mendiola and her rendition of *Mary Did You Know*.

Ending the night with an intermission act was last year's grand prize winner, Rhythm N' Harmony, earning a special $1,000 gift from Bridge Capital.

CEO John K. Baldwin, COO Jody Jordahl, and director of business development Shawn A. Scott thanked their guests after reflecting on the recovery efforts, the inspiring talents of the night, and wishing for another successful year for everyone.

DYNASTY

From Page 1

ment) to enter into an agreement with creditors under which all or a part of the business continues. Chapter 11's objective is to adjust and reorganize a debtor's obligations so as to allow the business to continue.

The filing of the bankruptcy petition came a day after Tinian Casino Gaming and Control Commission executive director Lucy Blanco-Maratita confirmed the news that the commissiion has approved HKE's application to reopen the casino tomorrow, Tuesday.

Last June, the U.S. Department of the Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network assessed a civil penalty of $75 million against HKE for "willful and egregious violations" of the Bank Secrecy Act.

Last July, the federal court dismissed the criminal charges against HKE after the company and the U.S. government entered into a non-prosecution agreement that requires Tinian Dynasty to forfeit $3.04 million—the largest forfeiture ever collected by the United States in the CNMI.

Last September, the CNMI Department of Finance's Revenue and Taxation filed in federal court a notice of tax lien against HKE to collect $125,452 in alleged unpaid taxes this year.

Last month, U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez and other federal labor officials filed a counterclaim in federal court against HKE and its president, Kwan Man.

In their counterclaim, Perez and the other federal labor officials asked the court to affirm the U.S. Labor Administrative Review Board's final decision that ordered HKE and Man to pay a civil penalty totaling $191,400 "for willful and repeat violations" of the overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

AUTHOR

From Page 5

She is currently working on her third book and, although she was raised on Saipan, she now resides in Nevada.

"The last time I was on Saipan was in 2003," she said, telling the young students to dream big but to also enjoy Saipan. "There's no place like it. It's magical. I can still feel the warm welcome from when I was last here."

Katrina Manning is the daughter of Edward and Frances Kilili Arriola of Saipan and Keith and Yolanda Manning of Texas. She has written thousands of online technical and business articles under her name and as a ghostwriter. She also ghostwrites for a well-known global software company. Yet, it is her love of animals, especially her cat Marmalade, that inspired her to write her first fiction novella.

Local author debuts mystery and romance series

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Katrina Manning debuted her family-friendly mystery and romance novellas *Marmalade's Exciting Tail* and *Lupus Obscurus* on Friday as the honorary storyteller at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library. The two are part of the five books in the Marmalade series.

Manning talked about her passion for writing, storytelling, and reading in front of a crowd of over 15 young adults.

Writing a book, she said, is a lot harder than she first thought, with editing her work and deciding on the cover art as the most difficult parts of all.

Inspirational author Katrina Manning debuts her family-friendly mystery and romance novellas *Marmalade's Exciting Tail* and *Lupus Obscurus* as the honorary storyteller at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

DAISY DEMAPAN

"I outlined my ideas for a year but the first book was written within nine months," she said. Her goal has always been to finish each book within a year.

Manning, a technical writer by trade, has been working on her novellas for over a year while working full-time.

Manning's first book, *Marmalade's Exciting Tail*, is set in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. It is a modern story of Claire Young, a Web developer who recently broke up with her fiancé. Planning for a fresh start, she starts packing to move to another city for an intriguing job offer when her cat escapes and runs away. Claire cannot imagine losing her furry best friend, so she does the first thing that comes to mind—she asks her ex-fiancé, Kirk, to assist her in the search.

The second book, *Lupus Obscurus*, whose title is inspired by her love of the Latin language, puts a cat in a werewolf story.

Manning encouraged the students to start writing their own books and that it's never too late, stating that she got her first break through Amazon's scout program.

See AUTHOR on Page 4

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Kia Soul LX retail price $18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $300.90 or $138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $18,054.00.
Kia Sportage LX retail price $22,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $356.34 or $164.46 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,380.40.
Kia Sedona LX retail price $30,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $490.99 or $226.61 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $29,459.40.
Kia Cadenza Premium retail price $35,995 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $570.20 or $263.17 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $34,212.00.

3 suspects in 'ice' shipment case indicted in fed court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A federal grand jury has indicted the three suspects in the shipment of 4.9 lbs of methamphetamine or "ice" worth $850,000.

The indictment charged Xi Huang, Shicheng Cai, and Zhaopeng Chen with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. The indictment includes a criminal forfeiture allegation.

According to the indictment filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Thursday, Huang, Cai, and Chen conspired between Nov. 30 and Dec. 4, 2015, to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

Manglona

Earlier on Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the U.S. government's motion to detain the suspects pending trial after determining that they are a flight risk.

If convicted of the charge, the sentencing guideline range may be from 19 to 24 years imprisonment.

The judge said sophisticated means were used to smuggle the large amount of drugs into Saipan.

Manglona said the evidence suggests that Huang was the leader of this group. She said Huang has some ties to the local community, with both of his parents living in the CNMI and him having lived on Tinian before.

With respect to Cai and Chen, Manglona said the two have no ties to the local community. Cai only arrived on Saipan on Dec. 4, 2015, while Chen arrived on the island on Dec. 2, 2015.

Manglona said Cai's intent was to depart seven days later, while Chen planned to depart five days later.

Manglona said Cai was arrested just hours after his arrival for committing the charged offense.

Manglona said Cai and Chen may have access to hidden funds that would allow them to finance an escape.

A routine Customs inspection at the Port of Saipan of a 40-foot container from Guangzhou, China, resulted in the discovery of the 4.9 lbs of "ice" hidden in three plastic bags in one of the nine 5-gallon paint containers last Dec. 2.

Joint federal and local enforcers investigated the discovery of the "ice" that led to the arrest on Monday of Huang, Cai, and Chen, all Chinese nationals.

The U.S. government filed a complaint charging the defendants with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute "ice."

Suspect in burglary at Govendo's house is indicted in federal court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A federal grand jury has indicted habitual offender Gilbert Kaipat for alleged possession of a gun and ammunition that he stole from the house of Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo in Dandan.

The indictment charged the 19-year-old Kaipat, also known as Cling Phillip Kaipat, with possession of a stolen firearm and possession of ammunition.

According to the indictment filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Thursday, on Nov. 5, 2015, Kaipat unlawfully possessed a 9mm Smith and Wesson pistol, "which had been shipped and transported in interstate commerce" knowing that the firearm was stolen.

The defendant also allegedly possessed a stolen hollow point 9mm round of ammunition.

Kaipat is still under detention after failing to post a $50,000 cash bail in connection with the charges in local court over the burglary at Govendo's residence.

At the preliminary hearing last month, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found probable cause to charge Kaipat with burglary, theft, and criminal mischief.

Police said a surveillance camera at a store near Govendo's house led to the identification and arrest of Kaipat, who then guided investigators to a trash bin at a bakery where he hid the stolen gun. Detectives recovered the judge's police-issued 9mm pistol.

Govendo was off-island when the incident happened. His wife discovered the burglary when she returned home from running errands.

Kaipat is a habitual offender who has been arrested several times in the past for various violent crimes.

NMC hosts free info session tonight

Individuals interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend the free information session hosted by the Northern Marianas College tonight, Dec. 14, 2015.

The information session, which is open to all prospective students and community members, will be from 6pm to 7pm in Room D-1 at the college's As Terlaje campus. The topics include the college's new bachelor's degree in Business Management, the Prior Learning Assessment program, and other new initiatives.

College faculty, staff, and students from the different degree and certificate programs at NMC, as well as Student Services representatives from counseling, financial aid, and admissions will also be on hand to provide helpful information and answer questions.

The deadline for submitting admission applications for the spring 2016 semester is on Jan. 4, 2016. The first day of classes is scheduled for Jan. 19, 2016. Other relevant spring 2016 dates have been posted to www.marianas.edu.

NMC offers several degree programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (concentration areas: elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management (new); associate degrees in business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management.

For more information about the information session and/or applying to NMC, contact the Office of Admissions & Records at (670) 237-6770, email oar@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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PUBLIC NOTICE

NMHC hereby provides notice to the public that available funding for the **Homeownership Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program** has reached the point of exhaustion and therefore the agency is calling for a moratorium on the processing of new applicants for the program. NMHC may accept completed applications but will be placed on the waiting list. Processing of new applicants for the HOME Program will commence when funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) becomes available.

Pursuant to NMHC's HOME Program Policies and Procedures, and because of the limited funding allocated to the CNMI each program year, NMHC has recognized the need to prioritize the level of assistance to qualified families. And because there are currently more applicants than available funds, NMHC shall establish and maintain an applicant waiting list where applicants shall be assisted if and when additional funds become available.

Eligibility for the program is determined by household size and income and must not exceed 80% of the HUD income limits as indicated by the following table:

INCOME LIMITS 2015	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person	6 Person	7 Person	8 Person
30% of Median Income	13,050	14,900	16,750	18,600	20,100	21,600	23,100	24,600
50% of Median Income	21,700	24,800	27,900	31,000	33,500	36,000	38,450	40,950
80% of Median Income	34,750	39,700	44,650	49,600	53,600	57,550	61,550	65,500

All applicants that have been approved and are being assisted, as well as those placed on the waiting list shall be processed on a first come, first serve basis.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fourteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the PSS Emergency Operations Center, Building 1254, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
a. October 8, 2015 Special Board Meeting
II. Public Comments [1]
III. Reports
1. Chair
2. Board Committees
a. CIP
b. FPA
c. ISA
d. LIA
e. SARC
f. SICPP
g. HPC
3. Commissioner of Education
a. Financial Status Reports
i. Federal
ii. Local
b. Head Start Program Report
c. Other matters
IV. Unfinished Business
1. Revised PSS FY2016 Budget Spending Plan re Appropriation Bill (P.L. 19-09)
V. New Business
1. Head Start Program Transportation Waiver SY2015-2016
2. Primary Instructional Materials for SY2015-2016
3. Discipline Referral System – Draft 02
VI. Executive Session [2]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other matters
VII. Administrative Matters
1. Certification and Licensure Matters
a. Recommendation Memo#CLO-2015-008
VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting
IX. Adjournment

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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US govt files first cyberstalking case in CNMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Federal agents arrested in Dandan last Thursday a man who was charged with cyberstalking, the first such criminal case filed in the CNMI.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued on Thursday an arrest warrant for Brian Tebuteb Palacios after a federal grand jury indicted him that same day with one count of cyberstalking.

According to the indictment, between April 19 and Sept. 15, 2015, Palacios used the Internet to disseminate harassing and threatening messages against the victim, placing that person and the spouse in fear of death and of serious bodily injury and causing substantial emotional distress to the victim and the victim's spouse.

No other details were given in the indictment.

Palacios was taken to U.S. District Court for the NMI on Friday for his initial court appearance. After the hearing, he was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Steven Pixley was appointed as his court-appointed counsel.

Special assistant U.S. attorney Mohammad Khatib was allowed to appear telephonically at the hearing.

U.S. Attorney for the District of Hawaii Florence T. Nakakuni made the request to allow Khatib to appear via telephone for the initial appearance and arraignment.

$1.6M allocated for FEMA's Public Assistance Program

Last Wednesday, Federal Emergency Management Agency coordinating officer Stephen M. DeBlasio noted that despite FEMA's joint field office closing by Dec. 18, more needs and housing assistance are continually being given based on appeals covered under the FEMA Individual Assistance Program, which provides grants to eligible individuals affected by Typhoon Soudelor.

A separate $1.6 million allocated on Wednesday under the FEMA Public Assistance Program, a reimbursement program for eligible public entities, is one of many obligations being processed as projects are completed and summated for reimbursement.

DeBlasio states that this funding will go to the Public School System, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Department of Public Works, Department of Homeland Security, and the Oleai Sports Complex, among others.

As of Dec. 12, FEMA approved 4,802 applications for individual assistance for a total of $24.4 million approved for individual and households program, $16.9 million for housing assistance, and $7.5 million in other needs assistance such as furnishings, transportation, and medical needs. For public assistance, $9.2 million has been obligated or made available via electronic transfer. ***(Daisy Demapan)***

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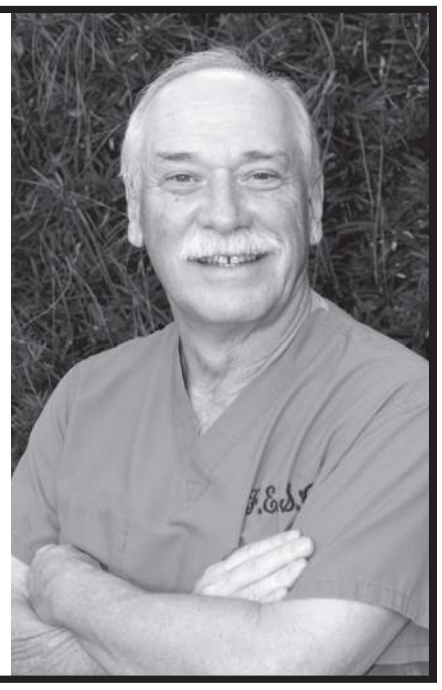

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Students bring cheer to Judiciary

The Kagman Elementary School student carolers with their teachers, Claire Cabrera (back row, second from left) and Gregoria Laniyo (back row, fourth from left), have their picture taken with Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, Justice John A. Manglona, Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja, Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, and court staff.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kagman Elementary School students brought the Christmas spirit to the NMI Judiciary with carols and smiles on Friday, Dec. 3. Under the musical direction of teachers Gregoria Laniyo and Claire Cabrera, the students sang in the Guma' Hustisia atrium before a crowd of justices, judges, court staff, and patrons.

The 4-D Choir from the Department of Public Safety also entertained at the Guma' Hustisia on Friday, Dec. 11.

The Marianas High School Glee Club will also perform at the Guma' Hustisia on Dec. 18 at 2pm. The public is invited to attend the performances. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

The 4-D Choir from the Department of Public Safety entertains the public at the Guma' Hustisia Friday, Dec. 11.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-16-002

Typhoon Soudelor Disaster Recovery Project - CUC Central Warehouse Repairs

The Office of the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for repairs at CUC Central Warehouse in Lower Base, Saipan. As this project is time sensitive, contractors shall ensure that they have a good understanding of the project prior to making their bid proposal to avoid protracted contract discussion that will result in a successful expedited contract award to the selected Offeror.

The Scope of Work and Solicitation Package will be emailed upon request, by CUC Procurement & Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays, **until December 15, 2015**. Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division no later than 2:00 p.m. on December 15, 2015 in order to be considered.

A **mandatory Pre-proposal Conference** will be conducted at the Warehouse Building in Lower Base, Saipan on **December 15, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., ChST.** Immediately after the conference, Site Visits to Warehouse facility will be arranged. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC Central Warehouse Repairs, CUC-RFP-16-002" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 31, 2015 at 10:00 AM,** local time. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying

labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of proponents' preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Proponents shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proponents.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. local time on **December 21, 2015,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, CUC P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950 via email: manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Assistant, Procurement Division via email: marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective proposers who have registered for the solicitation with CUC procurement division.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Bid in the interest of the Corporation. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

JOHN RIEGEL
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9715 Facsimile (670)236-9702

Request for Proposals
15-JUDICIARY-03
Janitorial Services for the Guma Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewee, House of Justice

The Commonwealth Judicial Branch is soliciting sealed proposals for janitorial services for the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewee/House of Justice, Saipan, for a period of one (1) year.

Firms or individuals submitting proposals must have a valid CNMI business license and be in compliance with applicable local and federal laws and regulations, including minimum wage requirements.

Proposal procedures shall comply with CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Title 70, Subchapter 30.3).

The proposal package will be available on **December 14, 2015** at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan, or by request faxed to (670) 236-9702 or emailed to juandiego.tenorio@justice.gov.mp.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held on **December 22, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.,** local time at the Guma Husistia Atrium Conference Room. Any questions or inquiries shall be directed to Mr. Gerald Weaver, Building Superintendent and shall only be answered at the mandatory pre-proposal meeting. Any questions or inquiries not raised at the mandatory pre-proposal meeting shall not be answered and shall be disregarded.

Sealed proposals must be marked **RFP15-JUDICIARY-03** and submitted in one (1) original and three (3) copies at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan no later than **December 28, 2015, local time, 10:00 a.m.** Proposals must expressly state that the price offered is good for a one (1) year period. Firms or individuals submitting proposals from outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose to the Budget and Finance Director no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, December 28, 2015.** Notices of Intent may be faxed to (670) 236-9702 or emailed to juandiego.tenorio@justice.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and three (3) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **December 28, 2015,** AND the proposal must be received at the Office of the Budget and Finance Director no later than **January 4, 2016, close of business.**

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI Government. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI Government and will not be returned to the proposer.

/s/ Alexandro C. Castro
Chief Justice

/s/ Juan Diego V. Tenorio
Budget and Finance Director

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Chacha hoping to retain caroling and float titles

Kagman Elementary School students sang Christmas carols in different languages with ukuleles as accompaniment. JON PEREZ

A crazy costume contest is still ongoing at Saturday's Christmas in the Marianas at the Paseo de Marianas. JON PEREZ

Chirdren pose with Santa Claus during Saturday's Christmas in the Marianas at the Paseo de Marianas. JON PEREZ

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Students and teachers of Chacha Oceanview Middle School are hoping to retain the titles in the caroling and float competitions of the Christmas in the Marianas Festival.

Chacha's presentation this year was inspired by the fictional children's book character, the Grinch, of Dr. Seuss.

Rose Jones, a seventh and eighth grade teacher at Chacha, said she and Nadia Murphy helped conceptualized the student's performance.

"We decided to go with the Grinch theme this year where we teach him why we celebrate Christmas and the values it brings," said Jones.

"This is new to us and it's our first time for us to organize the kids. We're the defending champions, so hopefully we win again, including the float," Jones added.

Performers of elementary, middle, and high school teams livened up the night with Christmas carols and dances that brought cheer to the hundreds that gathered to watch the contest.

Kagman Elementary School students sang Christmas carols in different languages with ukuleles as accompaniment.

The Northern Marianas International School's middle schoolers' presentation was a medley of lively Christmas carols highlighted by Britney Spears' *My Only Wish (This Year)*, with Christian Aldan working the crowd with a spirited performance.

Kagman High School's skit showed how the Ayuyus and the rest of the Marianas party during the holiday season.

Other schools that fielded carolers were Green Meadow School, William S. Reyes Elementary, Koblerville Elementary, Hopwood Middle School, San Vicente Elementary, and Kagman High.

Schools that failed to perform last Saturday would still perform their respective skits on Dec. 19 while the announcement of all winners, where a total of $31,000 in cash and prizes are at stake, will be on Dec. 26.

A crazy costume contest is still ongoing, with Cheyann Concepcion and Frankileain Kapileo as the entries of Green Meadow School and Chacha Oceanview, respectively.

A new event this year is the teachers' karaoke singing contest every week where they battle up to the finals. The singing contest offers a $1,000 cash prize. Perpetual trophies—also a new feature this year—for elementary, middle and high schools in the float and caroling competitions will be given to the winners.

The caroling contest has a total of $6,800 in prize money, the float contest holds $4,000, while the Christmas costume has $ 1,250 in prizes.

Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Tinian & Aguiguan

NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas will be appointing one of the following qualified individuals to serve as Commissioner on the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission:

Antonio SN. Borja
Bernadita S. SanNicolas
Jose M. Dela Cruz
David M. Cing
Charlene M. Lizama

Please call the Tinian Mayor's Office at 433-1800 or email ana.tinian@gmail.com should you have any questions or comments.

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Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Email Address: administration@cda.gov.mp
Website: www.cda.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
December 18, 2015

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to **loan documents**, the Commonwealth Development Authority ("CDA") shall auction off to the highest bidder **used airplane, parts and accessories and airline operation supplies.**

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **CPA Freedom Air Hangar on Friday, December 18, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.**;
4. Terms of the sale are cash, certified check or credit card (Visa and Mastercard only; a 2% fee will be charged on credit card transactions); and
5. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

CDA is attempting to collect a debt and any payments received will be used for that purpose. Any interested party or person may contact Ms. Abby Atalig or Ms. Marie Coleman, Loan Officers, CDA at 234-7145 extensions 304 and 307 for further information. Inspection of items will be announced at a later date. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. All sales are final.

Dated this 25th day of November, 2015

Commonwealth Development Authority
/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors (including Tinian and Rota contractors) that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing for calendar year 2016. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on our listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies that are not on our list of approved contractors but wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Current Financial Statements (certified by the principle executive officer and principle financial officer)
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Returns
4. 2 Years Corporate Income Tax Returns (1120)
5. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
6. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
7. Workmen's Compensation Policy
8. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
9. A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts
10. At least three (3) reference letters from owners of the completed projects
11. List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them (CONSTRUCTION QUARRY, READY-MIX CEMENT & HARDWARE STORES)
12. Company background
13. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable
14. Annual Report (Registrar of Corporations)

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY DECEMBER 31, 2015 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY'S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF "APPROVED CONTRACTORS".

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-Owned Businesses (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/S/JESSE S. PALACIOS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR

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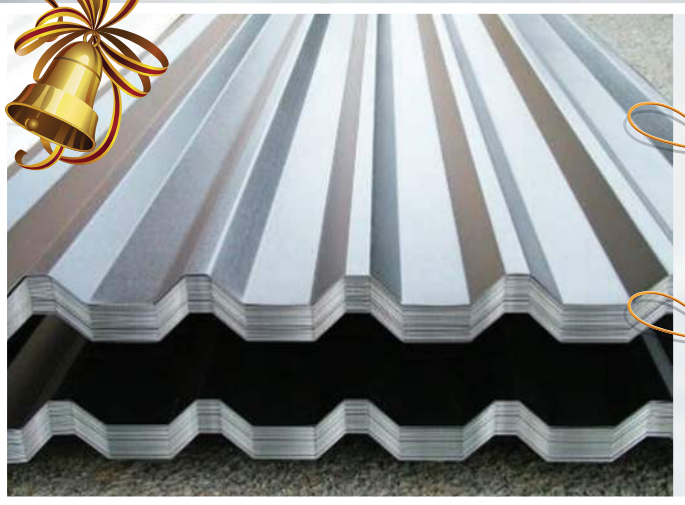

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
"Yes I Can!"
P.O. Box 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950 I Tel: (670) 322-6537/8 I Fax: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449 I E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2016 First General Membership Meeting on Thursday, December 17, 2015 at the Aqua Resort Club (Taga Room) in Saipan from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Meeting Minutes of 9/24/15
V. Reports
A. SILC Chairperson
B. CLI Executive Director
C. OVR Director
VI. Old Business
A. Election of Officers: Vice Chairperson and Sergeant-at-Arms
B. NCIL Conference Information Presentation
VII. New Business
A. SILC Congress Conference
B. SILC Meeting in Tinian
C. State Plan for Independent Living
D. SILC Activities for FY 2016
VIII. Consumer Forum
IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous
X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters are asked to call Ms. Elvira Seman (OVR Administrative Assistant) at 322-6537-38 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) five days before the meeting for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Emeterio Fitial
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

Join Annual Christmas Bird Count

This holiday season, birdwatchers and nature lovers have an excellent opportunity to learn more about our birds, and help scientists trying to conserve them. On Friday, Dec. 18, experienced and novice birders alike are invited to participate in Saipan's Annual Christmas Bird Count.

Started in 1900 by the National Audubon Society, the Christmas Bird Count is the world's longest-running citizen science project. Last year, over 70,000 volunteers counted over 66 million birds of 2,403 species across North America, the Pacific Islands, and Caribbean. The CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife has organized local counts for over 25 years, typically tallying thousands of birds and 50-plus species.

Volunteers for the Saipan Count will meet at 6am at American Memorial Park to divide into teams for roadside and walking surveys. Teams will spread out to cover the island, finding and recording as many birds and bird species as possible. Bring binoculars if you have them, but it's okay if you don't.

For more information, contact Steve Mullin, 664-6011 or smullin.cnmi.dfw@gmail.com, or visit http://www.cnmidfw.com/. ***(DFW)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Mariana fruit dove, also known as *mwee'mwe* in the Carolinian language or *Paluman totut* in Northern Marianas Islands, is a small, up to 24 cm long, green fruit dove native and endemic to Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands in the Pacific.

CGC needs $600K for drug court program

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Community Guidance Center, seen as a major partner for a CNMI drug court, has submitted a budget request of $681,834 to develop a "substance abuse treatment clinic."

The budget was attached to a letter to both chambers of the Legislature Monday from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

According to the budget's executive summary, the treatment clinic will have three major components: a drug abuse treatment clinic team; on-island resources for drug addiction; and a clinical outpatient treatment facility.

The center's budget request comes a couple of weeks after the CNMI Judiciary submitted a request of $317,189 to establish and fund a drug court on island.

The guidance center is seen as a major partner of the drug court, as it will provide drug counseling and treatment.

In their budget, the center requests funding for a first-rate medical team to diagnose and prepare treatment plans for patients suffering drug addiction and those that participate in the drug court.

The center writes that they and the local hospital lack "specialized treatment capacity" for the highly addicted.

The team will be made up of eight clinical service providers: an addiction specialist, a substance abuse treatment lead, an associate substance abuse counselor/case worker, three addiction service technicians, with an additional technician in training, and a registered nurse.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of December 11, 2015

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. IT&E	10/21/2015	Fiber Optic Installation	Gualo Rai	Major Siting Amendment 2015	Approved, 10/26/2015
2. MCC International, Ltd., Co.	10/21/2015	Stockyard Piling	Puerto Rico	Ports & Industrial	Approved, 11/12/2015*
3. Li Yong Hong Corporation Cola Tour	10/21/2015 SLRm-2015-X-075-A	Snorkeling Tours	Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved, 11/16/2015*
4. CUC	10/23/2015 SW-2015-X-073	Construct Generator House	Chalan Kiya	Wetland	Approved, 10/26/2015*
5. Docomo Pacific	11/10/2015 SS/PI/W-2015-X-075	Fiber Optic Installation	Saipan	Ports & Industrial/ Shoreline/Wetlands	Approved, 11/20/2015*
6. CNMI United Investment Corp.	11/12/2015 SS-2015-X-076	Land Clearing	Garapan	Shoreline	Approved, 11/17/2015*
7. Beach Road Tourism	11/09/2015 SS-2015-X-077	Arc Luxury Retail Building	Garapan	Shoreline	Approved, 11/20/2015*
8. MCC International, Ltd. Co.	11/19/2015 SS-2015-X-078	Wash Pad & Ponding Basin	Garapan	Shoreline	Approved, 11/24/2015*
9. Best Sunshine International	11/20/2015 SS-2015-X-079	Filming & Photography	Saipan/Managaha	Shoreline/ Lagoon & Reef	Approved, 11/24/2015*
10. Saipan Aqua World	11/30/2015 SS-2015-X-080	Deck Repair	Smiling Cove Marina	Shoreline	Approved, 12/02/2015*
11. Skywalker Communications Group, LLC.	12/01/2015 SSm-2015-X-081	Prefabrication Building Display	Garapan	Shoreline	Approved, 12/02/2015*
12. Saipan TV Productions, Inc.	12/02/2015 SSm-2015-X-082	Filming & Photography	Saipan	Shoreline	Approved, 12/02/2015*
13. Napu Outrigger Canoe Club	12/02/2015 SLR-2015-X-083	Outrigger Cano and SUP Race	Chalan Kanoa	Lagoon & Reef	Approved, 12/09/2015*
14. Kuma Xiong Lee	12/02/2015 SS/LRm-2015-X-084	Filming & Photography	Saipan & Managaha	Shoreline/Lagoon & Reef	Approved, 12/09/2015*
15. Blue Lagoon Realty	12/04/2015 SSm-2015-X-085	Renovation & Perimeter Fence	San Antonio	Shoreline	Under Review*

§15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulation requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Koki is Bank of Guam's newest VP

Koki

Isa Koki, CPA, CGMA, has been promoted from assistant vice president/GL accounting manager to vice president/GL accounting manager of the Bank of Guam.

Koki joined the Bank of Guam ib February 2013 as an accounting officer and was promoted the following year to assistant vice president/accounting officer. Since 2014, Koki has been responsible for overseeing general ledger, accounts payable and fixed assets accounting for the bank.

Koki was previously with Deloitte & Touche LLP as an audit associate. Before returning to Guam in 2011, she was with Sempra Energy Corp. in San Diego, California, where she served in their Internal Audit Services Department.

A graduate of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam, Koki is a cum laude graduate of the University of San Diego with a degree in accountancy. She is a Certified Public Accountant (California and Guam) and is a Chartered Global Management Accountant (Institute of Certified Public Accountants). Koki is the finance chair of Our Lady of Peace and Safe Journey (Chalan Pago) Parish Council and has volunteered for a number of bank-sponsored programs, including Junior Achievement of Guam, National Teach Children to Save Day and Get Smart About Credit Day. ***(BoG)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday, Baby Boy! Wishing you more blessings and happiness. Thank you for taking care of me and your princess. We love you! Love lots from Baby Girl and Althea.

Remengesau to speak at MTEC Tourism Summit in Jan.

The Marianas Tourism Education Council will hold its annual MTEC Tourism Summit for CNMI Public School System students on Jan. 28, 2016, at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Palau President Tommy Remengesau, a world leader in environmental conservation, will be one of the summit's speakers.

The summit is expected to gather 300 MY WAVE Club members to learn more about tourism, with special emphasis on the ocean as one of the Northern Mariana Islands' more important tourist attractions.

"The annual tourism summit gathers the MY WAVE clubs from the schools to increase awareness of the value of sustainable tourism development, "said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "The No. 1 reason visitors come to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota is to enjoy nature. This year, we are partnering with local offices and organizations to teach the students the value of our biggest natural resource, our warm and clean ocean. It is a tremendous honor to have President Remengesau accept our invitation to share his vision and work with the MY WAVE Clubs."

This year's summit theme is "One Ocean, One Heart" and will also feature remarks by former CNMI lieutenant gvernor and avid fisherman Diego Benavente and Dr. Peter Houk, assistant professor of marine biology at the University of Guam.

Remengesau

The following offices and organizations will also provide hands-on demonstrations at breakout stations during the summit: Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, Division of Fish and Wildlife, NMI Arts Council, Coastal Resources Management, and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

MTEC/MVA will be contacting schools with MY WAVE Clubs shortly to advise how students may register for the Tourism Summit. Seating is limited and will be coordinated by the MVA. For more information, contact MVA Community Programs specialist II Ryan Calvo or PR & Community Programs manager Martin Duenas at 664-3200/3201.

MTEC was formed in 2002 to heighten the community's awareness of the importance of tourism to the wellbeing of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. MTEC's stated mission is three-fold: to foster community understanding and support of the visitor industry; educate the general public, especially school students, about the value, social benefits, and economic contributions made to the community by the visitor industry; and to instill, improve and promote the "Hafa Adai-Tirow" hospitality spirit throughout the island community. ***(MTEC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCA board meeting on Dec. 15

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2015, at 3pm at the Commonwealth Cancer Association conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(CCA)***

Nominations open for Employer Support Freedom Award

The deadline to submit nominations for the 2016 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award is on Dec. 31, 2015. Presented by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense office, the Freedom Award is the nation's highest honor presented to civilian employers for exceptional support of their National Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR encourages Guardsmen, Reservists, or family members acting on their behalf, to submit nominations at www.FreedomAward.mil. The Freedom Award ceremony is held in Washington, D.C., for up to 15 deserving employers each year in August. ***(ESGR)***

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Dec. 14, from 10am to 9am
- Dec. 15, from 1:30-10:30am
- Dec. 16, from 9am to 10:30am
- Dec. 17, from 10am to 3am
- Dec. 18, from 10am to 4:30am

The U.S. Coast Guard will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Dec. 14-15 from 9am to 4am

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Facebook vs the Islamic State

A telling clue to the radicalization of the couple who killed 14 people in San Bernardino last week was a Facebook post in which one of the shooters, Tashfeen Malik, declared her fealty to Islamic State. Her choice of Facebook is a testament to the appeal that social media networks and their audiences have among Islamic extremists, who use them to distribute propaganda as well as communicate with one another.

That's obviously a problem, even if social media networks aren't the only tools that Islamic militant groups use to attract recruits. The tech companies that operate those networks say they're doing what they can in response, removing material that violates their terms of service whenever users call it to their attention. They also work with counter-terrorism officials, and have been "pretty good about telling us what they see," FBI Director James Comey said earlier this year.

Yet Facebook, which quickly deleted Malik's declaration of loyalty to Islamic State, apparently missed a number of previous posts that alarmed members of her family back in Pakistan. That seems to be par for the course when it comes to weeding out extremist propaganda online: Security analysts say that the Internet is awash in terrorist recruiting and training materials that don't get taken down.

On Sunday, Hillary Clinton called for "an urgent dialogue" between "government and the high-tech community" on ways to stop terrorists from continuing to use the Internet "to celebrate beheadings, recruit future terrorists and call for attacks." And Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Richard Burr (R-N.C.) introduced a bill Tuesday that would require online companies to report any terrorist activity they learn about on their networks.

As appealing as that may be, however, there are drawbacks to the proposal (which no one in law enforcement has been clamoring for). The bill doesn't define terrorist activity, and tech workers aren't trained to identify it or the people who should be scrutinized; after all, extremists are hardly the only ones tweeting about Islamic State videos. So if a company tries to police its network, chances are good that it will report far too much to avoid overlooking something important. That would only pile more hay onto the stack that investigators have to pick through, rather than helping to uncover more needles. Meanwhile, because the bill would require tech companies to report only what they're aware of, it would create a perverse incentive for them not to monitor their networks at all.

Feinstein has said that online companies have to report the child pornography they find, so why not report terror-related posts as well? But unlike child porn, there is no central database of images, videos and texts that could help identify terrorism-related activity online. A better response would be to beef up law enforcement's ability to spot such material, while doing more to rebut the propaganda by offering a better, more truthful vision of Islam and the world. Tech companies can be important partners in those efforts, but the Feinstein-Burr bill isn't the right way to build that partnership.

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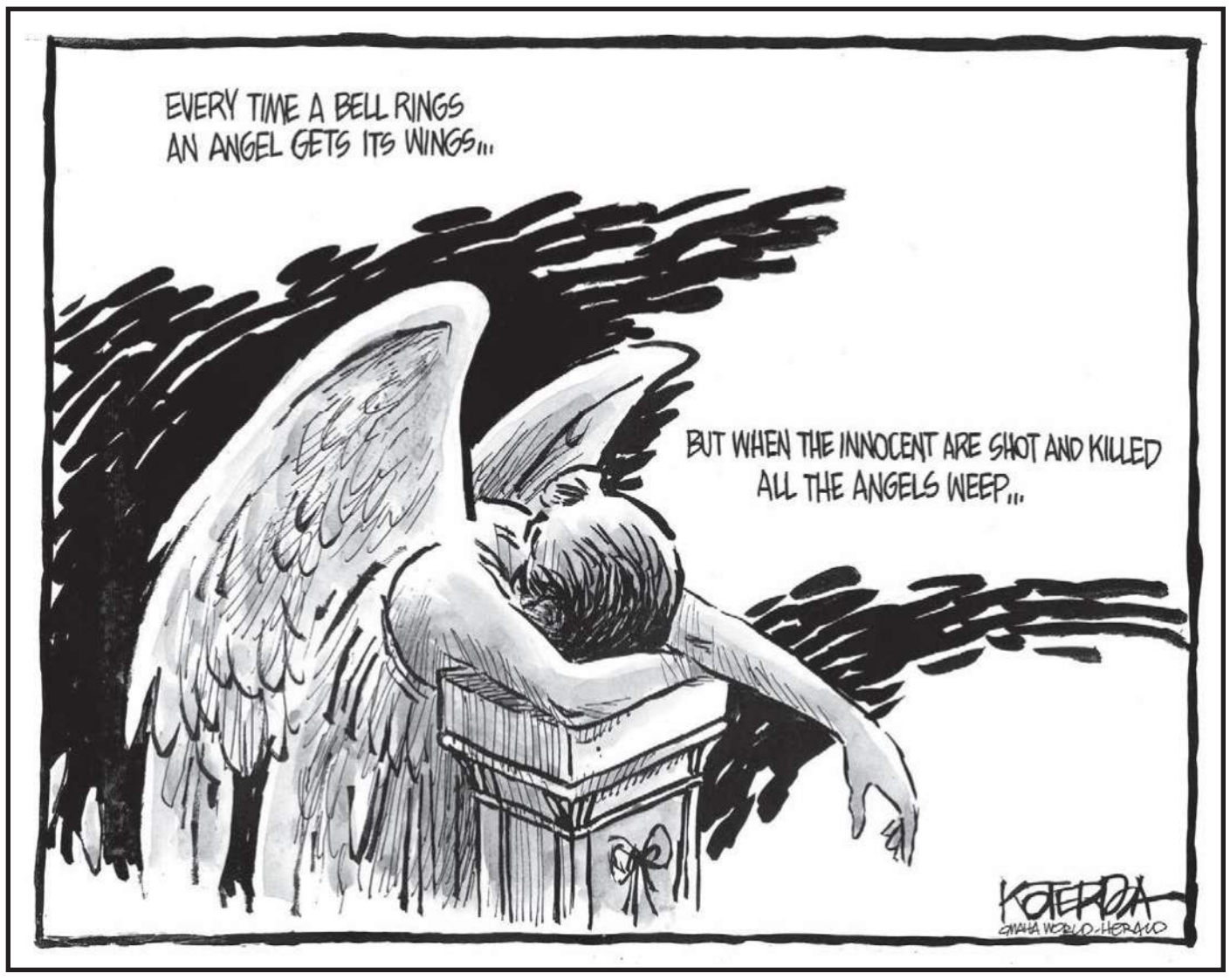
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OMAHA WORLD-HERALD

It's not the economy, stupid

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times*. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

Last year, Islamic State seized control of big chunks of Iraq and Syria. This year, it's hijacking the U.S. presidential campaign.

The biggest concern for most American voters until recently was the sluggish economy and stagnating incomes. But since the terrorist attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, more and more voters are saying national security is their primary worry.

A CNN Poll among Republican voters in Iowa this week found that 40 percent listed either terrorism or foreign policy as the top issue they would consider as they choose a candidate for president. Only 29 percent named the economy. Among Democrats, the effect has been less dramatic; if most Republicans are from Mars, most Democrats are still from Venus. The latter continue to list the economy above terrorism, although the margin has narrowed.

As a result, the attacks have changed the presidential campaign in both parties—from a contest focused almost solely on economic growth and tax rates to one that also includes questions about Muslim immigration and Islamic State.

That's been good for some candidates and bad for others.

The losers have included Sen. Rand Paul, whose campaign for a more restrained foreign policy has fallen on increasingly deaf ears, and neurosurgeon Ben Carson, who struck many voters as ill-prepared in recent debates.

On the Democratic side, the spotlight on national security hasn't been kind to Sen. Bernie Sanders, who says he wants to keep his focus on economic issues no matter what the polls say.

Among the winners—at least temporarily—has been frontrunner Donald Trump, who used the crisis to seize center stage Monday by declaring that no Muslim should be allowed to enter the United States "until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on."

(Trump later clarified that he would allow Muslim U.S. citizens, including those in the armed forces, to return home despite their faith.)

Trump's proposal drew denunciations from Sen. Marco Rubio (who called it "offensive"), Jeb Bush ("unhinged") and House Speaker Paul Ryan ("This is not conservatism")—but not Sen. Ted Cruz, who said he wanted to "commend" Trump for pointing out "the need to secure our borders."Indeed, there is a genuine and intermittently serious debate about foreign policy among Republicans—one that Trump's outbursts have mostly obscured.

Traditional GOP hawks, including Rubio, have said they favor deploying U.S. ground troops to Iraq and Syria, to serve as the nucleus of a multinational force aimed at defeating Islamic State on the ground.

Others, including Trump and Cruz, have suggested that unlimited U.S. bombing from the air should be sufficient. (Few, if any, military experts agree.) "We will utterly destroy ISIS. We will carpet bomb them into oblivion," Cruz told voters in Iowa on Saturday. "I don't know if sand can glow in the dark, but we're going to find out."

Hillary Clinton has been sounding hawkish as well, noting that she has long favored a more assertive strategy in Syria than President Obama has pursued.

"We're not winning," she said on ABC News on Sunday.

"Clearly we have to have a much more robust air campaign against ISIS targets, against the oil infrastructure, against their leadership ... . I do believe we have to (increase) our special ops numbers. The 50 (troops) that have been authorized need to get there. And then we need to take stock of what else we need."

That gung-ho tone hasn't hurt her among Democratic voters. The CNN poll in Iowa found that 72 percent of Democrats—including some self-identified Sanders supporters—said Clinton would be their party's best candidate to handle foreign policy.

In most years, a focus on national security and defense bolsters Republicans in a general election.

"If you ask voters which party they have confidence in on terrorism and defense, Republicans win that debate," GOP pollster David Winston told me Tuesday. That's one reason why George W. Bush won the 2004 presidential election against John F. Kerry, he said.

But this year, if the GOP nominates a candidate who's unconvincing on foreign policy—or downright scary—that historical advantage could erode. Trump's reckless xenophobia might yet work in a crowded primary; in a general election it's more likely to lead his party to disaster.

"Who does it help?" Dana Perino, a former Bush aide, said of Trump's rhetoric. "Hillary! That's who."

In 2008, when Clinton ran for the Democratic nomination against Obama, her campaign aired a famous television commercial that began with the sound of a ringing telephone.

"It's 3 a.m. and your children are safe and asleep, but there's a phone in the White House and it's ringing," a narrator said. "Who do you want answering the phone?"

If Clinton and Trump win their parties' nominations, you can expect that commercial—or one like it—to make a return appearance.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The unraveling

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Haidee V. Eugenio is a veteran journalist in the CNMI. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

What Best Sunshine wants, Best Sunshine gets.

They are aggressive, their PR is on full throttle, they are in almost every community event for donations and photo opportunities, they paid a quarter of retirees' pension, paid for peoples' utilities, and they are now in every "village."

They get concessions, including from the Legislature and the Executive Branch such as amending the Saipan casino law over and over to accommodate the investor's needs and wants, among other things, like allowing a live training facility in an existing mall, for example, instead of starting with a gaming facility that's built from the ground up as the original law required.

The deal struck recently between Best Sunshine and Mariana Resort & Spa owner Kan Pacific is almost a guarantee that Best Sunshine will get the new public land lease on the Marpi property for another 40 years when the current 40-year lease expires in April 2018. That's whether or not the Department of Public Lands continues the RFP or not.

Best Sunshine won't aggressively pursue something or dive into something unless it knows the outcome, with the way things have been.

Kan Pacific assigned the remaining lease years of Mariana Resort's Marpi lands to Best Sunshine, which has been eyeing the property almost since day 1.

The $7 billion price tag of Best Sunshine's promised integrated casino resort will be hard to surpass by any other investor group that would participate in the bidding process; perhaps only another casino group of investors, but Best Sunshine already holds an exclusive casino license on Saipan.

Since Kan Pacific has already assigned the remaining lease on the property until 2018, not giving it to Best Sunshine or another entity (assuming another party would bid) would mean no income from the public land lease when the current lease expires.

Moreover, the press release from the parties stated they intend to "work together to support Best Sunshine's efforts to obtain a new lease on the land." Kan Pacific will not bid on the property anymore, but stated the possibility of establishing a new hotel on the same Marpi land "or some other suitable location."

A new lease would have to be approved by the Legislature. With its current composition, the Legislature would likely approve it. By January, the new House speaker under a power sharing deal is the author of the Saipan casino bill, Vice Speaker Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan).

Unless, of course, there's another kind of leadership change in the House, wherein the minority picks new allies to make up the new majority. Best Sunshine is surely on the lookout.

The administration declined comment on the Best Sunshine and Kan Pacific agreement, saying it's between two business entities. While it's true that it's between two private entities, the property involved is public lands and the real owners of the land sure do want to hear from the administration or DPL.

Would the CNMI government allow Best Sunshine to build on the existing Mariana Resort facility instead of building a new hotel—with casino—from the grounds up? Is another casino law amendment in the pipeline?

One wonders whether Hyatt Regency Saipan, the only global brand hotel in the CNMI, would also cave in if and when Best Sunshine or another investor group takes a strong interest in its property or if DPL pushes through with an RFP without offering Hyatt the chance to negotiate a new lease.

Hyatt's 40-year lease will be expiring in a few years, and so are Kanoa Resort & Spa's and Fiesta Resort & Spa's. It won' be surprising if any or all of these three other hotels have also been approached by Best Sunshine.

And almost two years since the Saipan casino bill became law, there's been no meaningful discussion and action in either the Legislature or the administration to assess public infrastructure and services needed such as expanded water, power, sewer, roads, hospital, schools and law enforcement services to meet the demands of a $7 billion investment that will forever change Saipan.

Moreover, in just a short two years, Saipan has become the gaming capital of Micronesia. That's at least two years after elected officials started making trips (the ones that we know of) to Singapore and Macau/Hong Kong to meet with prospective casino investors in late 2013, and up to early 2014, weeks before the Saipan casino bill was introduced.

Besides the longtime poker parlors, Saipan now also has a casino courtesy of a controversial March 2014 law, and thriving electronic gaming facilities in certain hotels because of a law put in place in December 2013. The Saipan casino is part of a planned $7-billion integrated casino resort. And then there's video lottery.

If only Best Sunshine's plans and activities are given the same scrutiny given to the U.S. military's plans for the Commonwealth, then perhaps there would be more answers rather than questions about the real impact of Best Sunshine's casino on the CNMI.

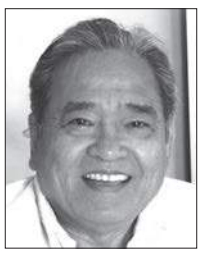
■■■

GUN LAW. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) is considering legislation that will allow the CNMI people to decide through their own legislative process whether the Second Amendment should apply to them or whether they should be able to decide for themselves what limits, if any, there should be on gun ownership in the Commonwealth.

It's high time the CNMI discuss the Second Amendment and gun ownership control more openly, given the series of shootings on American soil and the recent challenge to the CNMI's own gun law.

"The safety and the rights of my constituents should not be held hostage by a national debate in which we cannot fully participate. And the legislation I am considering introducing will take the decision out of the hands of the federal government and give that power back to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands," Sablan said in a recent post on social media.

Physicality



By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

It was in '75 in a Roman Catholic monastic retreat house in Venezuela when my group in the Ecumenical Institute completed an International Training Institute for church leaders. A Catholic nun among the participants had a habit of wearing her habit one size smaller than her robust physique could hold, and she must have noticed that my looks lingered during the training sessions for she came to my room when we were packing to leave. She wanted to bid me goodbye properly, she said. An inch shorter than my height, she bent my head on both hands, kissed the top of my head and brushed her lips all the way down to my toes. Then she told me to embrace her as tightly as I could. I forgot the word she used to call the "religious" ritual that I gathered was widely practiced but before I could draw a sigh of relief, she vanished with the wind.

After regaining my composure, I casually stopped my Maryknoll *padre* on the hallway and describe what just transpired. He smiled and said that monastics often developed their own way of affirming their physicality without violating celibacy vows.

Up to then, my converted Roman Catholic mother and Methodist Protestant father had raised me and my four siblings to treat our physicality as a neutral without being too emphatic or judgmental about it, though more to be endured than celebrated in the manner of Paul of Tarsus. I discovered later that the universal treatment of humans regardless of culture takes the body as tainted, and sex dirty, but church folks keep blood throb close by with a slight wink, the body given to be lived with neither despair nor delight.

I sub-teach at a private religious institution and my students squirmed when I narrated how my friends and I at 4 years gathered under my home's dining table to make "comparisons." My mother affirmed our curiosity but made sure I always wore my pants from then on. Physicality became taboo as I grew older but I held on to it tightly without apology or excuse, as the Venezuelan sister asked me to do.

Marketing has long known that titillating consumers' fancy generates massive sales. Cosmetics welcome consumers in department stores with their display. It›s the physical self-image that counts at the basic and fundamental level.

Physicality is dominated by sight, which explains why the mascara and all the cosmetics that goes with polishing a "face" occupies the ground floor of the store. What we look like takes priority, followed by how we smell, then how firm the muscles are when looked at or embraced and how smooth they feel when extended for a handshake. The sounds that we make determine the conviviality of speaking and singing, and the stroke of fingers in the sensitivity of skin determines the nature of caress and the attraction of skin-to-skin scrimmage.

It is in the scope of our physicality that we color the kaleidoscope of our vision. We ensure the pleasantness of aroma in our viand, and we create the rhythmic beat with vigor of the snapping of the fingers. Art and humanities would be stale without the above, and the only reason the politburo can endure two hours of podium monotone speeches in the previous China leadership was that the *Hanzi* characters were laid out in front of everyone to follow with their eyes rather than their hearing.

I am heading for *Dong Bei* in northeast China this Sunday to visit my wife and check on our house. She left Saipan three months ago to care for her elderly parents, and will most likely not return with me. My father-in-law was just operated for a hipbone injury so she's looking for another three months of filial care. So we have to catch up on the last three months, and make up for the next three, and I shall try to keep it within my side of Venezuelan Catholic celibacy. Is that fair enough?

In this season of lights and green trees, we are reminded of our dreams, and emboldened by our hopes. There is nothing abstract about those; our hopes and dreams are very physical.

The approaching Christmas season has since Thanksgiving gotten the nativity mangers in display. The manger scenes look very alive. On one site, a Church custodian made sure that the manger was dusted and the straw tidied once a day, and when he took the manger babe to the bathroom, I asked what it was for. "In case he pooped," he replied.

That's faith on optimal physicality.

A *Salud* to a Venezuelan nun!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clarification on FEMA assistance

I have read your story on the CARE director's update and would like to clarify a statement made in the story. In the story you state: "According to FEMA federal coordinating officer Stephen M. DeBlasio, more needs and housing assistance are continually being given based on appeals with the $1.6 million allocated on Wednesday.

"DeBlasio states that this funding will go toward the Public School System, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Department of Public Works, Department of Homeland Security, and the Oleai Sports Complex, among others."

You are mixing information about two separate programs in this sentence. Mr. DeBlasio did state that more needs and housing assistance are continually being given based on appeals. This program is covered under the FEMA Individual Assistance Program that provides grants to eligible individuals affected by Typhoon Soudelor.

The $1.6 million allocated on Wednesday was funds allocated under the FEMA Public Assistance Program, which is a reimbursement program for eligible public entities. The amount referenced was reimbursement funding for the organizations identified in the second paragraph and is only one of many obligations being processed as projects are completed and summited for reimbursement.

The way the original story is worded one might get the impression that the $1.6 million was going toward "needs and housing assistance," which is not the case.

I wanted to clarify the statement to avoid any confusion.

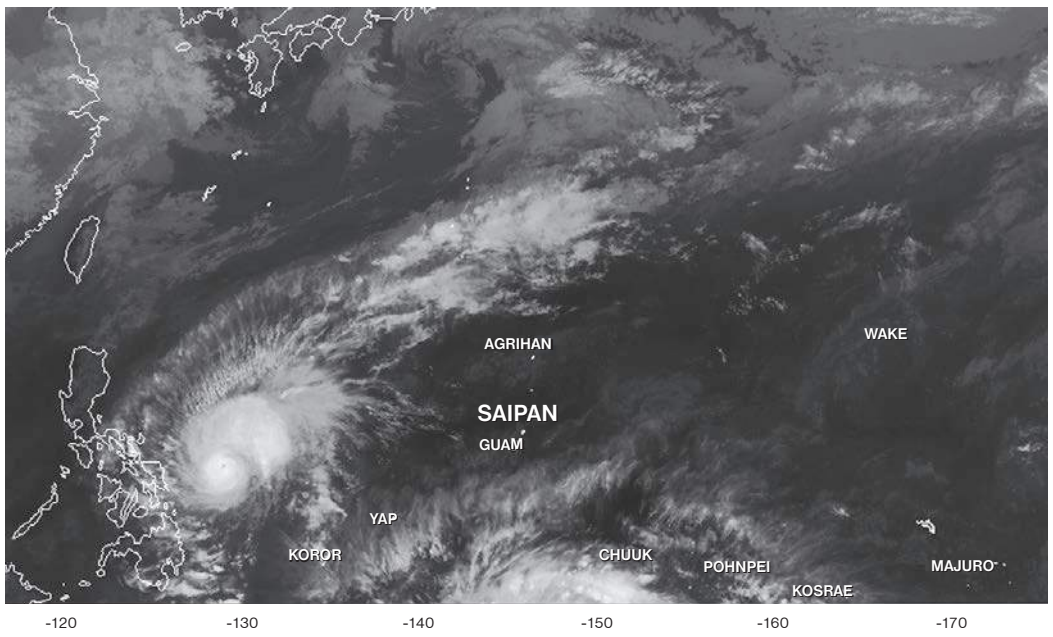
Ron Roth
FEMA External Affairs

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88º ▼77º	▲88º ▼77º	▲88º ▼77º	▲88º ▼77º	▲88º ▼77º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Newly upgraded Typhoon Melor (28W) is centered 455 miles northwest of Koror near 12N130E moving west-northwest at 13 mph with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph. Heavy rain and isolated thunderstorms are occurring around the center west of a line from 11N131E to 13N131E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found northeast to southeast of the center within 55 miles of a line from 14N130E to 14N132E to 9N135E. For more information on Typhoon Melor, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and advisories by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A surface trough runs northeastward from Typhoon Melor to near Iwo To island at 25N140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with this feature are seen well north of Yap within 60 miles of a line from 17N133E to 23N140E. Similar conditions are also present over Iwo To island north of a line from 23N138E to 23N145E. A tropical disturbance is centered southwest of Chuuk near 3N149E. Fresh trade winds converging toward the disturbance are causing numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms south of eastern Yap state and western Chuuk state within 140 miles of a line from 5N144E to 3N149E to EQ153E. Converging trade winds are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Kosrae between 1N and 3N from 164E to 169E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲68	▼56
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲45	▼26
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼61
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼71
London	Cloudy	▲50	▼47
Los Angeles	Showers	▲64	▼46
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲92	▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼57
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼74
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼55
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼48
Paris	Fog	▲46	▼44
Pusan	Showers	▲55	▼46
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼43
Salem	Thunderstorms	▲45	▼36
San Francisco	Rain	▲58	▼45
Seoul	Showers	▲47	▼37
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲57	▼48
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼55

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:22 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.4 Feet
10:22 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:01 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
8:44 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Tuesday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Wednesday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Thursday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Friday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:40 AM	8:26 PM
Tuesday	9:30 AM	9:22 PM
Wednesday	10:19 AM	10:19 PM
Thursday	11:07 AM	11:15 PM
Friday	11:53 AM	

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 4, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2924/183	4:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5072/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2924/159	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

Average gas price soon under $2

DALLAS (AP)—Gasoline is close to breaking below a key psychological barrier as drivers enjoy some of the cheapest pump prices since the recession.

The nationwide average price of a gallon of regular Saturday was $2.02, down 58 cents from this time last year, according to auto club AAA. Experts say it could drop below $2 a gallon in the coming days.

For consumers, this winter is shaping up to be a good one, energy-wise. Forecasters predict warmer weather than normal, and fuel prices are low.

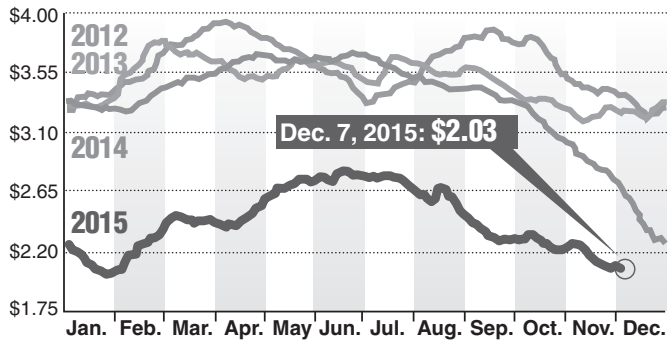
The retail price of heating oil for December through February is expected to average $2.40 a gallon, down 18 percent compared with last year, according to the Energy Department. The price of natural gas for residential customers is expected to average $8.72 per 1,000 cubic feet, down 9 percent.

On the roads, many drivers across the country are already seeing gasoline prices well below $2 a gallon. According to data compiled by AAA and the Oil Price Information Service, drivers in about half of the states are already paying less than $2.

Falling crude oil prices lead to savings at the pump

The national average is less than a penny higher than the 2015 low (Jan. 26), and should soon fall below the $2 per gallon mark for the first time since 2009.

National average gas price comparison, 2012 to 2015



Source: AAA
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

South Carolina has the lowest average price at $1.79 a gallon. At the high end, Californians are paying $2.65 and Hawaiians are shelling out $2.76.

The relative bargains at the pump might last a while, because global crude oil supplies are high and demand appears to be weakening. Crude prices fell Friday after the International Energy Agency predicted that demand will grow more slowly next year. The organization expects 2016 growth to be only two-thirds the size of 2015's increase.

Rising production, mostly from OPEC, is also pressuring oil prices. Iran, Iraq and other members of the oil cartel are trying to boost output as they dig out from economic sanctions and wars.

Crude oil futures fell $1.14 to close at $35.62 a barrel Friday on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Yum CEO says Pizza Hut needs to be more like Uber

NEW YORK (AP)—Yum CEO Greg Creed thinks he figured out why sales at Pizza Hut have gone cold: The chain needs to be more like the car-hailing service Uber.

"If you think about the Uber experience, it's easy to use, it's easy to pay, it's very easy to track," Creed said in a phone interview from Dallas late Thursday after Yum Brands' investor day.

During a presentation, Creed said there was a time when the way to beat the competition was to have a better product. He now believes that convenience trumps quality, and that "nothing beats making better easy."

Creed said the insight that "easy" beats "better" will help Yum energize its three fast-food chains, which also include KFC and Taco Bell. That means everything from shaving time off drive-through waits to pushing into areas like catering, delivery and mobile ordering.

With Pizza Hut in particular, Creed said the chain hasn't paid as much attention to making life easier for customers as it focused on being "better." Yum notes the chain's sales have flagged even as Pizza Hut is often cited as a favorite among consumers. It turns out people who prefer the chain's pizzas are only willing to wait about two minutes more for it, Creed said. Yet Pizza Hut takes more than two minutes longer to deliver than its competitors.

It's one of the reasons Yum thinks Pizza Hut has flagged in the U.S. as rivals have prospered. In recent years, Domino's has credited the convenience of its online ordering and mobile app for fueling its steady growth. Last year, its sales rose 7.5 percent at established U.S. locations, following growth of 5.4 percent the previous year.

In the meantime, Pizza Hut's sales fell 3 percent at established locations last year, following a 2 percent drop in 2013.

To get the chain back on track, Creed said he made Pizza Hut's management team get in a room about a month ago to come up with a "clear brand identity." They were told not to come out until they did.

"One of the joys of being the boss, you can lock other people away," said Creed, who stepped into the CEO role this year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Nissan recalling recent Rogue models with shift defect

Nissan is recalling nearly 34,000 of its Rogue 2015 models to fix a defect that could cause the sport utility vehicle to unexpectedly shift out of the park position. The auto manufacturer says the problem is caused by a faulty shift selector knob that allows the Rogue to move out of park even when the brake pedal isn't depressed. The defect affects Rogue vehicles manufactured from February 10, 2015 through May 13, 2015. Nissan will start notifying owners of the affected vehicles of the danger this month so they can take their Rogues into dealers to have the defect fixed at no charge. Rogue owners with questions may contact Nissan at 1-800-647-7261 or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at 1-888-327-4236. ***(AP)***

Treasury delaying announcement of woman going on $10 bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—The country will have to wait a bit longer to find out who will become the first woman on U.S. paper currency in more than a century. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew had said he would announce a decision by the end of this year naming the woman who will replace Alexander Hamilton's portrait on the $10 bill. But late Friday, Treasury issued a statement saying the announcement was being delayed until sometime in 2016. Treasury said the delay will give the government time to "carefully review and consider a range of options" in response to an outpouring of suggestions from the public over the past six months. Lew set off a furor in June when he announced he was replacing Hamilton's portrait on the $10 bill with a woman. Treasury has gotten more than 1.5 million responses commenting on the change, everything from tweets to handwritten notes.

Nation

Funerals held for 3 slain in California shooting

JESUP, Ga. (AP)—Those close to Shannon Johnson knew him to be fearless—whether he was moving across the country to pursue love, rescuing stray animals in the path of a wildfire, or trying to shield a co-worker from gunfire during the last moments of his life.

The 45-year-old health inspector from Los Angeles received a hero's funeral Saturday in his home state of Georgia 10 days after the massacre in San Bernardino, California. Funerals also were held in Southern California for two other victims—Tin Nguyen, 31, and Isaac Amanios, 60.

One of Johnson's colleagues wounded in the attack, Denise Peraza, said later that he wrapped an arm tightly around her as bullets went flying and assured her: "I got you."

Those would be his last words.

Johnson was sitting next to Peraza at a holiday luncheon for San Bernardino County environmental health employees on Dec. 2 when Syed Rizwan Farook, 28, and Tashfeen Malik, 29, opened fire. The husband and wife were later killed in a shootout with authorities.

Peraza says she and Johnson sought cover beneath a table when he tried to shield her. Johnson was among 14 people killed in the attack. Peraza was shot in the back, but survived.

"I believe I am still here today because of this amazing man," Peraza said in a statement soon after the killings.

Inside Calvary Baptist Church in the rural city of Jesup, where Johnson was born about 2,300 miles from the auditorium in which he died, a congressman gave his family a folded U.S. flag while praising him as "an American hero."

"Shannon's fearless. He's always been that way," Rob Johnson, the slain man's older brother, told reporters before the service.

"I'm sure that when he saw the young lady, he thought of his sister or his girlfriend or his former wife," he said. "That's just the kind of guy he was. He's a man of action."

At Johnson's memorial service, about 200 people filed into the church where roses, lilies and carnations sent by mourners decorated the pulpit amid strands of white lights and potted poinsettias set out for the Christmas season.

The Rev. Ed Bacon, a family relative, noted Johnson's selfless final act echoed that of his father, who died while saving another man during an industrial accident at a Kentucky paper mill in 1978.

Johnson was just 8 years old, and his father's death affected him deeply. As a boy, Bacon said, Johnson would sometimes slip away from home and spend the night at his dad's grave.

New laws to ease doctor shortage see long delays, criticism

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—A new Missouri law offered a first-of-its-kind solution to the physician shortage plaguing thousands of U.S. communities: Medical school graduates could start treating patients immediately, without wading through years of traditional residency programs.

Following Missouri's lead, similar measures were enacted in Arkansas and Kansas and considered in Oklahoma. The idea appeared to be a new model for delivering medical care in regions with too few physicians to meet needs.

Yet more than 18 months after that first law passed, Missouri regulators are still trying to make it work. And not a single new doctor has gone into practice in any of the three states as a result of the new laws.

"You've got the need for services on one hand, and you've got a group of people that are capable of providing those services. But we're not making it happen," said Dr. Keith Frederick, an orthopedic surgeon and Missouri House member who is frustrated by the delays in implementing the legislation he sponsored.

There are more than 6,200 places nationwide with a shortage of primary care physicians, ranging from urban neighborhoods to entire rural counties, according to statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Universities have been launching new medical programs and expanding student enrollment in an attempt to meet an even larger projected doctor shortage caused by retirements and an increased demand for physicians under President Barack Obama's health insurance overhaul and state Medicaid expansions. Total U.S. medical school enrollment approached 110,000 this past year, up almost one-third over a decade ago.

Residency programs, which provide an additional three to six years of post-graduate training needed for physicians to be certified, have also grown but have failed to keep up with demand.

When foreign medical school graduates are added to the mix of U.S. students, more than 8,600 applicants were denied residency positions this year through the nation's main matching service. That's an increase of more than 50 percent from 2005.

That bottleneck is due partly to a 1997 federal law that limits the growth in federal Medicare funding for residency programs.

Man accused of hate crime, arson in California mosque fire

COACHELLA, Calif. (AP)—A 23-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of committing a hate crime and arson in connection with a Southern California mosque fire, authorities said Saturday.

Carl James Dial Jr., of Palm Desert, was arrested late Friday and booked for investigation of commission of a hate crime, arson, maliciously setting a fire and burglary, according to a Riverside County sheriff's statement and jail records.

Dial was being held in lieu of $150,000 bail. His father, John Dial, said in a telephone interview that his son should be considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Flames were reported just after noon Friday at the Islamic Center of Palm Springs. The fire was contained to the small building's front lobby, and no one was injured.

People at the mosque described hearing a "loud boom" and seeing flames, said Reymundo Nour, the mosque's acting imam, who was not on the site at the time. He said the mosque had been firebombed.

Authorities provided no details on how the fire was set.

State fire investigators, the federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the FBI are assisting in the investigation.

The mosque is about 75 miles from San Bernardino, where last week a couple who federal officials say were inspired by Islamist extremists killed 14 people. Some Muslims in Southern California and beyond have worried about the potential for reprisals, while leaders of various faiths have called for tolerance.

In a statement released Friday evening, U.S. Rep. Raul Ruiz, whose district includes the area in which the mosque is located, called on authorities to investigate the blaze as a possible hate crime.

"Our faith in humanity will not be intimidated," he said. "And we stand together against any form (of) violence towards the innocent."

County and city officials also condemned the attack.

Asia

Asia's coastal cities face challenge of rising seas

NEW DELHI (AP)—The future will be a watery one for some of the world's biggest cities.

Predicted sea level increases this century mean many face increased flooding, stronger storm surges and unpredictable weather. How well coastal cities can cope will dramatically affect quality of life and their economic destiny. Many of the biggest are in Asia, powering economies while housing hundreds of millions of poor in sprawling slums.

Scientists generally agree seas will rise an average of 1 meter (3 feet) this century, though some predict an eventual increase as high as 6 meters on average. How quickly these changes occur will partly depend on whether negotiators at this week's U.N. climate talks in Paris can broker a strong treaty to limit the release of climate-warming greenhouse gases.

But with a certain amount of sea rise considered inevitable as warmer temperatures melt glaciers and expand oceans, cities will have to adapt quickly to spare investors losses and citizens from disaster. Those unprepared risk being highlighted as poor places to invest.

"It's difficult for businesses and societies to grasp what's happening," said Richard Hewston, a climate change analyst at Verisk Maplecroft, which advises companies on business risks. But some governments now realize "they need to pay attention to these climate risk factors to attract investment."

Global losses from flooding in coastal cities are already averaging about $6 billion a year, according to a 2013 study published in the journal Nature. Those losses could rise to $52 billion annually by 2050, it said.

Asia is particularly vulnerable because many of its countries are still struggling to lift hundreds of millions up from poverty, while its cities attract droves of migrants seeking better economic opportunities. Within a decade the world is expected to have 37 megacities with populations over 10 million, and 21 of them will be in Asia.

The Bangladesh capital, Dhaka, holds sprawling slums to which millions fled when rising seas swallowed their coastal homes. India's finance capital Mumbai has an annual gross domestic product of about $151 billion, along with some 2.8 million people crammed into low-lying slums that flood regularly.

"There are many children, too, who live in these homes," said Birender Bacchar Singh, who lives in Mumbai's Dharavi slum. "Sometimes when huge waves reach the houses and crash, the shacks collapse and all our belongings get washed away. Yet we have no option but to live here."

But the economic contribution of these cities is crucial. Highly vulnerable Dhaka alone makes up more than half of Bangladesh's GDP of $150 billion. Frequently flooded Manila accounts for two-third of the Philippines' economy, while Shanghai's $594 billion GDP or Hong Kong's $416 billion are bigger than the economies of many nations.

In India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a vision of 100 smart cities popping up across the country, integrating high-tech systems for transportation, communication and sewage treatment. His urban development minister said last week in Paris that the plan would "ensure sustainable development and economic growth."

But little has been said about upgrading existing cities, where some 400 million Indians still cope with shoddy infrastructure, makeshift housing, trash-clogged drainage systems and inadequate sewage treatment.

"In terms of sea level rise, we really are at a very critical juncture. But we continue to build housing and infrastructure along the coast. Society does not seem to be cognizant of the risks," said Rishi Aggarwal, an environmental activist and fellow with the Observer Research Foundation in Mumbai.

Chennai is still drying out from monsoon floodwaters that subsumed the southern Indian city last week, largely due to chaotic urban planning that compromised its storm drains. The city's international airport, which sits on a dry river bed, was forced to close for days. Ten years earlier, the same thing happened in Mumbai, where both the old and new airports are also built over flood plains.

"If something like the 2005 floods in Mumbai could not wake up the city, it's hard to imagine what it will take," Aggarwal said.

If the Paris climate talks cannot steer the world from its current path toward a 4 degree Celsius rise in temperatures, sea rise will subsume coastlines that are now home to 470 million to 760 million people, according to a November study by the nonprofit research and news organization Climate Central.

Asia has seven of the 10 megacities with the highest number of people at risk of being displaced, the report says: Shanghai, Hong Kong, Kolkata and Mumbai, Dhaka, Indonesia's Jakarta and Vietnam's Hanoi.

Businesses worried about risks to production and profits are pushing hard in Paris for strong action. Banks have pledged green energy funds. Companies are promising to go carbon neutral.

"The interests of governments, the private sector and cities are aligning as never before," U.N. climate chief Christiana Figueres said Sunday in Paris. "We are witnessing the turning point in the way the global economy prices pollution and invests in real wealth."

The stakes are high. In Southeast Asia alone, the Asian Development Bank expects climate change to cause losses that will reduce the region's potential GDP by 11 percent in this century.

But there's a flip side to the gloomy projections. Countries and businesses that are preparing for climate change could reap considerable financial benefits.

"When there's an improvement, it enhances the competitiveness of those cities," said Tatiana Gallego-Lizon, director of the bank's division on urban development and water.

She cited sewage improvements in Kolkata and drainage systems in Hanoi as helping those cities appeal to investors. "If you plan it and market it properly, it could provide a very special boost for the economy."

Shanghai, where the annual rainfall is about 20 percent higher than the global average, is already faced with occasional severe flooding. But while it has one of the highest populations at risk of climate-induced displacement, it also scores well on some lists ranking its capability to cope.

The city has constructed more than 520 kilometers (320 miles) of protective sea walls virtually encircling half the city to protect from typhoons and also to guard against rises in sea level over the coming century. The system of concrete walls and ramparts around the city is bolstered by a mechanical gate that rises and falls to regulate the amount of water that Suzhou Creek feeds into the Huangpu River which runs through the city.

"The controls we have in place already should be able to deal with the next 20, 50, even 100 years of rising sea levels," said Zhang Zhenyu, spokesman for Shanghai's flood control headquarters.

World

'Historic accord' to slow global warming is celebrated in Paris

LE BOURGET, France (AP)—Nearly 200 nations adopted the first global pact to fight climate change on Saturday, calling on the world to collectively cut and then eliminate greenhouse gas pollution but imposing no sanctions on countries that don't.

AP

French foreign minister and President of the COP21 Laurent Fabius, center, applauds while United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, left, and French President Francois Hiollande applaud after the final conference of the COP21, the United Nations conference on climate change, in Le Bourget, north of Paris, Saturday, Dec.12, 2015.

The "Paris agreement" aims to keep global temperatures from rising another degree Celsius (1.8 Fahrenheit) between now and 2100, a key demand of poor countries ravaged by rising sea levels and other effects of climate change.

Loud applause erupted in the conference hall after French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius gaveled the agreement. Some delegates wept, others embraced.

"It's a victory for all of the planet and for future generations," U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said, adding that the pact will "prevent the worst most devastating consequences of climate change from ever happening."

Brazilian Environment Minister Izabella Teixeira added: "Today, we've proven that it's possible for every country to come together, hand in hand, to do its part to fight climate change."

In the pact, the countries pledge to limit the amount of greenhouse gases emitted by human activity to the levels that trees, soil and oceans can absorb naturally, beginning at some point between 2050 and 2100.

In practical terms, achieving that goal means the world would have to stop emitting greenhouse gases—most of which come from the burning of oil, coal and gas for energy—altogether in the next half-century, scientists said. That's because the less we pollute, the less pollution nature absorbs.

Achieving such a reduction in emissions would involve a complete transformation of how people get energy, and many activists worry that despite the pledges, countries are not ready to make such profound, costly changes.

The deal now needs to be ratified by individual governments—at least 55 countries representing at least 55 percent of global emissions—before taking effect. It is the first pact to ask all countries to join the fight against global warming, representing a sea change in U.N. talks that previously required only wealthy nations to reduce their emissions.

"History will remember this day," U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said. "The Paris agreement on climate change is a monumental success for the planet and its people."

Speaking from Washington, President Barack Obama said the climate agreement offers "the best chance to save the one planet we have."

The deal commits countries to keeping the rise in global temperatures by the year 2100 compared with pre-industrial times "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), and says they will "endeavor to limit" them even more, to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The world has already warmed by about 1 degree Celsius since pre-industrial times.

Ben Strauss, a sea level researcher at Climate Central, said limiting warming to 1.5 degrees instead of 2 degrees could potentially cut in half the projected 280 million people whose houses will eventually be submerged by rising seas.

WORLD BRIEFS

Shiites: Nigerian soldiers kill 12, besiege Islamic movement

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Soldiers besieging the home of the leader of a Shiite movement accused of trying to assassinate Nigeria's army chief have shot and killed at least 12 people, the Islamic group said early Sunday. About 30 people have been wounded in the ongoing attack that began late Saturday in the city of Zaria in northern Nigeria and continued into early Sunday, Zeenah Ibrahim, the wife of the group's leader, told The Associated Press in a phone call interrupted by the sounds of gunfire. Army spokesman Col. Sani Usman said the Shiites on Saturday afternoon attacked the convoy of Gen. Tukur Buratai.

Burundi army: 87 people killed in Friday violence

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (AP)—Violence from coordinated attacks on three Burundian army installations killed 87 people, an army spokesman said Saturday, showing the escalating turmoil over the disputed third term of President Pierre Nkurunziza. More than 150 armed men raided the army facilities Friday and 79 of them were killed, army spokesman Col. Gaspard Baratuza said Saturday. Eight security agents, four from the army and four from police, also died in the fighting and 21 security officers were wounded, he said. Baratuza said forces arrested 45 members of the unidentified group that attacked the military installations.

Saudi women vote for the first time, testing boundaries

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Women across Saudi Arabia marked a historic milestone on Saturday, both voting and running as candidates in government elections for the first time, but just outside polling stations they waited for male drivers—a reminder of the limitations still firmly in place. The landmark election for local council seats was not expected to immediately advance the status of women in Saudi Arabia, who are still not permitted to drive, but it seen as a chance for them to make their voices heard as citizens. "We are making history. I just made history," said candidate Karima Bokhary, 50, after casting her ballot at a polling station in the capital Riyadh.

Health & Fitness

Feeling like a Grinch? At least it won't shorten your life

LONDON (AP)—There's good news for grumpy women: Being happy apparently has no effect on how long you might live.

That's the conclusion of the latest attempt to find out if happy people live longer. Previous studies have linked happiness to longevity but researchers now say there's no such scientific connection. So while being sick makes you unhappy, just being grouchy isn't enough to make you ill or shorten your life.

The results are based on questionnaires from more than 715,000 British women aged 50 to 69 who were enrolled in a national breast cancer screening program in the late 1990s.

The women were asked things like how often they felt happy and how healthy they were. Nearly 40 percent of the women said they were happy most of the time while 17 percent said they were unhappy. After a decade of tracking the women, 4 percent had died.

Scientists found the death rate among unhappy women was the same as those who were happy. The research was published online Wednesday in the medical journal Lancet.

"It's such a common belief that stress and unhappiness causes death and disease but it's actually the other way around," said Richard Peto, a professor at the University of Oxford who was one of the study's authors. "People should focus on the real issues that shorten their lives, like smoking and obesity."

In an accompanying commentary, French scientists suggested that the results might not be the same in men, since "men and women probably define happiness differently." The researchers said the latest paper was the biggest-ever to evaluate happiness and noted it accounted for potential confounding factors. Some previous studies among older adults have found that women were grumpier than men.

Peto said the pursuit of happiness is still worthwhile, even if it doesn't extend your life.

"Happiness is very nice," said Peto, who was relieved to have finished the study after two decades. "I had some of it myself when I was young."

But not everyone was convinced by the study's conclusions.

Hazel Newton, 69, said she believed having a positive attitude was instrumental to her recovery from a stroke several years ago.

"I've always been a glass half-full kind of person and I think that helps keep you healthy," Newton said while enjoying a day of shopping in London with her sister.

The Sheffield native said it's important to consciously decide to be happy.

"You always have to enjoy every day," she said. "You never know what's coming."

AP

Hazel Newton, centre left, poses for a picture with her sister as they walk down Oxford Street, in London, Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015.

Fewer teens are driving drunk—survey

NEW YORK (AP)—A government survey shows fewer teens and young adults say they drive drunk.

Last year, nearly 7 percent said they'd recently driven while under the influence of alcohol. That figure has been steadily going down. It was 16 percent a dozen years earlier.

The numbers are for people ages 16 to 20 who participated in a large government survey focused on alcohol, tobacco and illegal drug use.

Drunken driving by people in their early 20s is more common but also is falling.

The survey also asked about driving under the influence of marijuana. Three percent of teens and young adults said they'd done that recently. That statistic has held about steady since 2002.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the report Thursday.

Drug for advanced lung cancer OK'd

The Food and Drug Administration on Friday conditionally approved an experimental Genentech drug for patients with a certain type of lung cancer who have few other options.

Alecensa won accelerated approval for patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer with a mutation in a gene called ALK who have relapsed after treatment with Pfizer Inc.'s Xalkori or who could not tolerate that drug. The mutation in ALK, or anaplastic lymphoma kinase, indirectly drives growth of tumors.

Accelerated approval is granted to medicines for serious or life-threatening conditions that show an effect likely to benefit patients. To maintain that conditional approval, the drugmaker must then do further testing to confirm that the medicine improves patients' condition. Genentech has already begun a larger, head-to-head study of how long Alecensa extends survival compared to New York-based Pfizer's Xalkori, in patients not previously treated with either pill. ***(AP)***

In Humble Gratitude

Thank you for grieving with us, praying with us and for us. May God's love abound to you today and always, and may His blessings enrich your lives with wisdom, fortitude, and grace.

We, the family of the late

†Julie Crisostomo Aldan Castro

Wish to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our families and friends for their love and support and who have thoughtfully came to be with us in so many ways expressing words of wisdom, comforted us and embraced us with love as we mourned the untimely passing of our dearly beloved "+Julie", a loving wife, a caring mother and a compassionate grandmother and great grandmother.

Your thoughts and prayers, love and support have helped ease the pain in the loss of our beloved. Our deepest appreciation to the Very Reverend Father Ryan P. Jimenez for presiding over the Mass of Christian Burial, Bishop Emeritus Tomas A. Camacho for his constant guidance and prayers to our family, and Fr. Sid Ogumoro for celebrating the daily mass of intentions for our beloved. Thank you to Fr. James S. Balajadia and Fr. Rey Rosal for aiding our beloved with her spiritual needs. Si Yu'us Ma'ase to all the Diocesan clergy who assisted during the Mass of Christian Burial, to Deacon Steven Martinez and Tan Ko Palacios.

We extend our appreciation to the Saures Family Choir for the beautiful serenade during the viewing and most especially during the Eucharistic Celebration. Our heartfelt appreciation to our prayer leader/techa, Alice Deleon Guerrero for reciting the nightly rosary, and to Cabrera's Funeral for assisting us with making our beloved's services as beautiful as she would have wanted it to be.

We would like to thank Thomas P. Villagomez and Micronesian Air Cargo for assisting us with the transfer of our beloved to Guam for cremation services. Our gratitude extends to the Marianas Variety, the Offices of Rep. BJ Attao, Rep. Angel Demapan, Rep. Daling Ogumoro, Speaker Joe Deleon Guerrero, Rep. Anthony Benavente, Sen. Justo Quitugua, Sen. Arnold Palacios, Sen. Sixto Igisomar, Jimmy and Maryann Reyes, Pete and Lorraine Babauta, Celina Kaipat and Family, William Pendergrass and Bill Manglona.

Our heartfelt thanks to Msgr. David Quitugua from the Archdiocese of Hagatna who joined us in prayer in our final moments with our beloved at Our Lady of Peace Crematorium.

Sen dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase para todos I humasuye ham parehu-ha fi finattyon miyu yan lokkue gi tinayuyut miyu. In sen ga'um I korason mame nu I man sen dangkulu na ayudu yan suppotasion. Puedi si Yu'us un benendise, puedi si Yu'us un inina ni dangkulun Gracia-na. Puede un nina'e yan I familian-mu PAS.

We will always treasure in our hearts your kind generosity and unending support you have given us.

Frank Camacho Castro
Children, Grandchildren,
Great-Grandchildren and Families

Life & Style

Banksy takes on migrant crisis with Steve Jobs image

LONDON (AP)—Street artist Banksy has taken on the migrant crisis in a new mural at a migrant camp in France.

The elusive graffiti artist has depicted the late Apple guru Steve Jobs—whose biological father was from Syria—carrying a black garbage bag and an early model of the Macintosh computer.

The artist best known for his subversive street art has never disclosed his identity. His publicist, Jo Brooks, confirmed Saturday that the work found at the encampment in Calais is genuine.

Jobs was adopted. His biographer, Walter Isaacson, has described the computer genius' biological father, Abdulfattah Jandali, as a graduate student who came from a prominent family and studied in the United States.

Banksy has traveled the world to comment on war, child poverty and the environment.

AP

A painting by English graffiti artist Banksy is seen at the entrance of the Calais refugee camp in France, Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015.

Hollywood preps for 'Star Wars' world premiere

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood is preparing for what could be the largest movie premiere in its history on Monday night when the hugely anticipated "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" is screened for VIP audiences in three separate theaters amid tight security.

At one of the Hollywood Boulevard location—the iconic TCL Chinese Theatre, where the first "Star Wars" premiered in 1977—fans are already camped out this weekend, eagerly awaiting their turn when the film opens for regular folks next Friday.

One fan, Lavonne Dominguez, wasn't interested in simply buying a ticket online to see the movie in her local movie theater. She and several friends who drove up from Orange County wanted an out-of-this-world experience.

"I need to see it in an epic place with people who are just as excited about 'Star Wars' as me," said Dominguez, 32, who was among about 150 devotees in line at the Chinese on Friday, occasionally ducking under awnings to avoid a passing shower.

Several fans began holding court outside the theatre last weekend. Many of them previously lined up at the same location to be among the first to see the "Star Wars" prequel films, beginning in 1999. This time, the theater operator is allowing them to camp out on top of the theater's famous celebrity hand-and footprints, instead of along the sidewalk out front.

The fans must log at least 24 hours in line to gain entry to the theater's first public showing of the film, but those who spend more time in line will earn preferential seat selection.

"If I didn't have to go to work, I probably would be here the whole time," said Dominguez.

It's unclear just where the group will be when Lucasfilm's latest "Star Wars" installment has its worldwide premiere on Monday night.

The star-studded event is expected to be one of the largest—and most secretive—Hollywood premieres ever.

On Friday, dozens of workers were busily erecting a mammoth opaque tent lining four blocks of Hollywood Boulevard.

Inside the partially built structure, curious tourists snapped photos of lighting equipment while security personnel drove around in carts with "The Force Awakens" logo on them.

Lucasfilm-owner Disney declined to comment or provide details about the premiere, but it's expected to take over the TCL Chinese Theatre, as well as the nearby El Capitan Theatre and the adjacent Dolby Theatre, home of the Oscars.

An invitation sent to members of the media Friday afternoon requested that they withhold from spoiling the film after seeing it for the first time Monday night and dress in "'Star Wars'" chic" attire to the event.

Los Angeles Police Lt. John Jenal said the department is treating the premiere like other marquee events that take place on Hollywood Boulevard, including the Academy Awards. He noted "The Force Awakens" debut is "triple the magnitude of a typical premiere."

Jenal said extra vehicle patrols and more officers on foot are being assigned to the area, with several streets blocked to traffic. A half-mile stretch of Hollywood Boulevard between Highland and La Brea avenues was closed off beginning Friday.

Beyond the Hollywood premiere, there are several special screening events planned across North America to celebrate the opening of "The Force Awakens."

In New Orleans, a "Star Wars"-inspired Mardi Gras marching club is organizing a Wednesday night pajama party-marathon screening of the first three "Star Wars" films.

"It will be a big group of folks in pajamas eating popcorn and watching the original trilogy," said Ryan Ballard, an artist and co-founder of the Intergalactic Krewe of Chewbacchus.

The 1,000-member group also plans a uniquely New Orleans celebration on Thursday night. Ballard said the Krewe arranged for a private showing for 100 of its officers at a local theater. Afterward, the group will lead a parade of costumed revelers into the French Quarter, accompanied by a brass band playing a medley of "Star Wars" music.

In Kane, Pennsylvania, the Kane Family Drive-in Theater is reopening in the dead of a Northeast winter to show "The Force Awakens." It marks the first time in the drive-in theater's 63-year-old history that it will be open during the snowy season.

The Alamo Drafthouse in Austin, Texas, is hosting an endurance contest for seven die-hard fans who are hoping The Force will keep them awake. The theater will screen the entire "Star Wars" saga ahead of the debut of "The Force Awakens." For those that survive the 16-hour marathon without nodding off, "The Force Awakens" will then play repeatedly until one fan remains awake. The winner will receive a seven-year movie pass and "Star Wars" swag.

The Weeknd, Nick Jonas, Lovato shine at Jingle Ball concert

NEW YORK (AP)—The Weeknd celebrated his breakout year from critical darling to full-blown pop star at iHeartRadio's "Jingle Ball" concert in New York City.

The Grammy-nominated singer headlined Friday at Madison Square Garden, and even left out expletives during his set of songs, which was explosive and energetic.

He sang familiar radio hits like "Can't Feel My Face" and "The Hills" in front of the feverish crowd, as did Nick Jonas, Selena Gomez, Charlie Puth, Fifth Harmony and Shawn Mendes.

Demi Lovato was a vocal powerhouse in front of the loud audience and offered words of encouragement to the young fans.

Other performers included 5 Seconds of Summer, Hailee Steinfeld, Calvin Harris and Zedd. Fetty Wap performed his hit "Trap Queen" and silenced the audience when he ended his set with an expletive.

Rapists should be accountable for the suffering they cause

DEAR ABBY: My rapists are dead now, but I can see from the years since their attack what damage they have caused. I'm having medical complications that have developed over time, pain and suffering from those complications, PTSD and additional stress over pharmacy bills because of it. It has affected the way I feel about men, and I'm afraid it will be this way for the rest of my life.

My attackers caused a great financial burden on me because of the cost of psychological counseling and loss of income due to episodes of related illness and working beneath my potential. Rapists seem to think they're entitled to take what they want when they want it. I'm thinking perhaps they should be forced to take responsibility for the resulting cost to the person whose life they affected, which brings me to my question: Can women sue their rapists?

ALTERED BODY AND SOUL

DEAR ALTERED: In this country, anybody can sue anyone for anything, but not someone who is dead. However, lawsuits can be emotionally and financially costly, and the question is whether the plaintiff can win. Some states offer financial assistance to victims of crime, which includes medical and dental expenses, counseling costs, funeral or burial expenses, and lost wages or support.

Because your rapists are deceased, it would be more practical for you to go online and visit www.victimsofcrime.org to explore what kind of compensation may still be available for you. I wish you luck in your pursuit of justice.

DEAR ABBY: I'm an only child; my husband is not. Our parents don't live nearby, and every year we have great debates over where to go for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Both sets of parents host both holidays at their homes.

My husband feels we should alternate, one year spend Christmas with his parents, the next with mine. I suggested that one year we host Christmas at our home. That way, both sets of parents could be with us, but his mother said no because her other children and grandchildren spend the holidays with them at her house.

Even though I know the fair thing to do would be to alternate, I do not want to leave my parents alone on the holidays because I'm their only child. They have no one else! But his mother expects us to be there for every holiday and gets upset if we aren't. I know this situation will only get worse once my husband and I have children. What should we do?

HOLIDAY TROUBLE IN NEW YORK

DEAR HOLIDAY TROUBLE: Because a marriage is supposed to involve the joining together of two families into one, you might suggest to your mother-in-law that she extend an invitation to your parents for the holidays. But if she's unwilling or your parents are unable to travel, then I agree with your husband that you should alternate the holidays.

After you have children, this should be discussed again, because it is important that they get to know their cousins, and it will be easier to expose them when the family is all together—whether it's at your home or your in-laws'.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

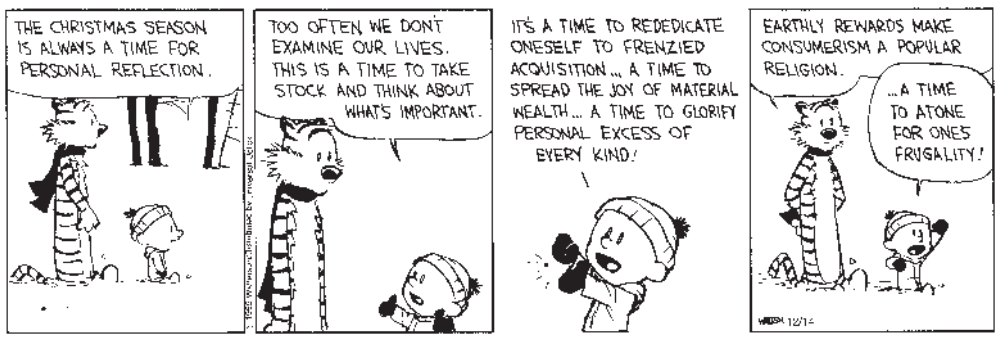
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS ALWAYS A TIME FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION.
TOO OFTEN WE DON'T EXAMINE OUR LIVES. THIS IS A TIME TO TAKE STOCK AND THINK ABOUT WHAT'S IMPORTANT.
IT'S A TIME TO REDEDICATE ONESELF TO FRENZIED ACQUISITION... A TIME TO SPREAD THE JOY OF MATERIAL WEALTH... A TIME TO GLORIFY PERSONAL EXCESS OF EVERY KIND.
EARTHLY REWARDS MAKE CONSUMERISM A POPULAR RELIGION.
...A TIME TO ATONE FOR ONES FRUGALITY!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WRITING A NEW CHRISTMAS STORY.
COOL. WHAT'S IT ABOUT?
"STUMBLE, THE CHRISTMAS ZOMBIE."
HE'S A ZOMBIE LOOKING TO EAT CHRISTMAS COOKIES AND DRINK HOT CHOCOLATE.
COCOAAAA...
THAT'S KIND OF SWEET.
...AND SANTA'S BRAINS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

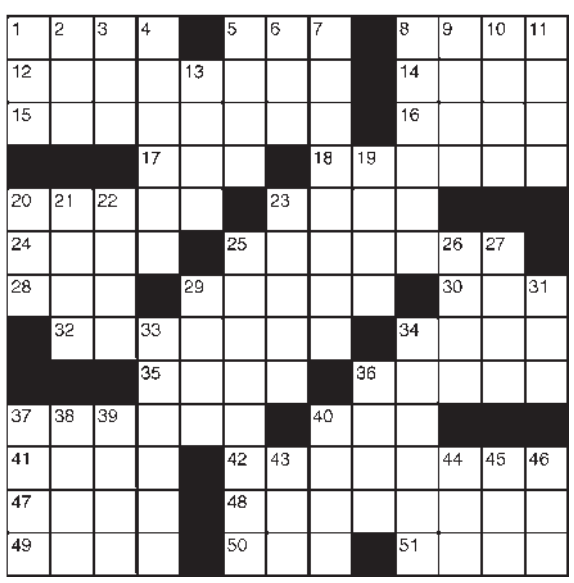
ACROSS
1 Ultimatum word
5 Hobo
8 Chili rating
12 Motorcycle brand
14 Trendy berry
15 Prepaid stocking stuffer
16 Slay
17 Canon camera
18 Kigali's land
20 — and sweet
23 "Taken" star Neeson
24 — Martin (cognac)
25 One point, in tennis
28 Advice guru Landers
29 Payola
30 Math ratios
32 Flour sieves
34 Love-struck sound
35 Mythic birds of prey
36 Like wool, for some
37 Focused
40 Cutesy ending
41 Dire fate
42 NASA launches
47 Memo start
48 They're on the loose
49 Mosquito barriers
50 "Help!"
51 Money maven Orman

DOWN
1 Heart chart (Abbr.)
2 Chou En- —
3 Personal-ad abbr.
4 Foodie's hangout
5 Meadow sounds
6 Kiev is its cap.
7 Belly areas
8 "— Bovary"
9 Symbol
10 — up (ill)
11 Actress Merrill
13 Nae sayer?
19 Lightbulb unit
20 Madrid Mrs.
21 Coop group
22 Hotel chain
23 Make-up artists?
25 Skin spots
26 Colossal
27 Near, in poetry
29 Classic Pontiacs
31 Timid
33 Mirror borders
34 Brownstone fronts
36 Itty bit
37 Viking god
38 Zero
39 Civil wrong
40 Some GIs
43 Equal (Pref.)
44 Pot-au- —
45 Shriner's cap
46 Compass dir.

Solution time: 27 mins.

J	E	T		T	U	⁻	J		C	L	A	D
A	V	A		U	R	L	S		A	O	N	E
M	A	K	E	N	I	C	F		R	U	N	F
		E	V	E	S			A	U	D	E	N
S	O	⁻	A	R		N	I	B	S			
U	P		N		H	O	I	C	O	C	O	A
R	E	V		M	I	M	E	S		A	L	S
I	C	F	C	R	F	A	M		F	K	G	S
			R	E	D	S		G	R	E	A	T
C	O	Z	E	U			D	R	I	P		
S	I		P		I	A	K	F	C	O	M	O
H	A	T	E		P	A	N	T		P	E	W
A	V		S		S	A	Y	A		S	A	N

Friday's answer 12-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Vanessa Hudgens, 27; Natascha McElhone, 46; Dee Wallace, 67; Patty Duke, 69.

Happy Birthday: Look at the possibilities and let your enthusiasm build until you are ready to give your all. Success will be achieved by taking action and being willing to make the adjustments that will improve your life personally and professionally. Look outside your geographical location for opportunities you can't find closer to home. Trust in your ability to be diverse. Your numbers are 1, 9, 18, 26, 31, 38, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You can do anything you set your mind to. Rework the way you present your skills, and update your resume. An unexpected financial opportunity will lead to greater personal stability. Ask for favors. Cooperation will be a key factor in your success. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Research and listen to what others have to say, and you will know exactly what to do to please the people around you without jeopardizing your own needs. Romance is on the rise, and sharing your intentions will lead to positive changes. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take action. It's what you do, not what you say, that will get things out of the way and give you more free time to make plans for the holidays. Visiting an old friend will bring about new options. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Be creative when dealing with money matters. If you buy gifts for friends or family, be creative and look for a gift that comes from the heart. It's the sentiments behind your purchases for others that count, not the price tag. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't be confused by what others do or say. Focus on what you need to accomplish and you'll come out on top. An emotional situation is best left alone. Time will help sort out difficulties. Make travel plans for next year. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't give in to someone's abrupt or demanding ways. Get out and do the things that make you happy. Exploring your options for upcoming festivities will lead to a choice that may not please everyone. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Keep your thoughts to yourself when dealing with friends and family. Emotions will flare up easily if you discuss the changes you plan to make. You will discover valuable information if you talk to someone with experience. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Do everything according to the rules and directions you've been given, and leave nothing to chance. A direct approach will help you get what you want. Romance should highlight your day and set the stage for an improved home life. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't make promises you cannot keep. It's better for others to underestimate you and wind up being surprised by your skill, talent and ability. If you do things for the wrong reason, you will end up being taken advantage of. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You will accomplish a lot if you don't let what other people do slow you down. Head in your own direction and focus on taking care of business. An extreme change will be beneficial both personally and financially. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Beware of emotional setbacks. Don't get into discussions that will solve nothing. Put your energy into personal paperwork or taking care of matters that are time-sensitive. A career change based on your personal responsibilities will be apparent. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Dealing with financial, legal or medical institutions will be challenging. Not everyone will be eager to share information or direct you properly. Use your experience, knowledge and intuition to help you choose the best course of action. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, entrepreneurial and charming. You have finesse and staying power. *Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2		4			1	5	
8	5	3						2
	7			2		3		8
4			1		9			
		5				2		
			5		2			9
9		1		5			4	
5						6	2	1
	4	8			3		7	

Difficulty Level ★ 12/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

3	7	4	1	5	2	8	6	9
2	9	6	7	4	8	1	3	5
5	8	1	3	9	6	2	4	7
1	2	5	9	8	4	6	7	3
6	3	8	5	1	7	9	2	4
9	4	7	2	6	3	5	1	8
7	6	9	4	2	5	3	8	1
4	5	2	8	3	1	7	9	6
8	1	3	6	7	9	4	5	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

ROASTING CHESTNUTS Solution: 5 letters

V	K	F	H	S	E	R	F	A	G	A	C	E	A	E
I	N	C	I	S	(I)	O	N	S	I	Z	E	U	S	L
T	I	O	E	R	O	(R)	L	E	W	O	T	L	A	D
A	F	O	S	L	E	P	(O)	B	H	U	L	N	E	N
M	E	K	K	O	B	D	E	(N)	M	E	O	K	W	A
I	T	G	I	O	U	I	I	N	H	S	A	O	R	H
N	A	N	L	C	R	T	D	S	A	M	R	T	A	A
S	R	I	L	R	E	H	U	E	U	B	E	G	P	R
W	E	T	E	X	T	O	S	I	U	P	O	R	E	V
E	G	T	T	O	U	O	S	R	I	T	P	I	E	E
E	I	U	L	D	F	E	S	R	S	L	I	L	L	S
T	R	C	I	T	N	T	A	S	T	E	A	L	Y	T
E	F	C	E	G	N	I	T	S	A	O	R	E	S	S
A	E	N	A	T	S	A	C	A	L	C	I	U	M	U
D	R	M	A	E	T	S	R	I	C	H	C	E	E	B

© 2015 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 12/14

Autumn, Beech, Boil, Brown, Burst, Bust, Calcium, Castanea, Cloth, Cook, Cool, Cutting, Deciduous, Edible, Fagaceae, Fire, Fresh, Grill, Handle, Harvest, Heat, Incisions, Iron, Knife, Magnesium, Make, Meal, Open, Peel, Refrigerate, Rich, Ripe, Roasting, Seasonal, Shells, Side, Size, Skillet, Slit, Soften, Steam, Supply, Sweet, Taste, Texture, Towel, Vitamins, Wrap

Last Friday's Answer: Recital

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Outnumbered

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

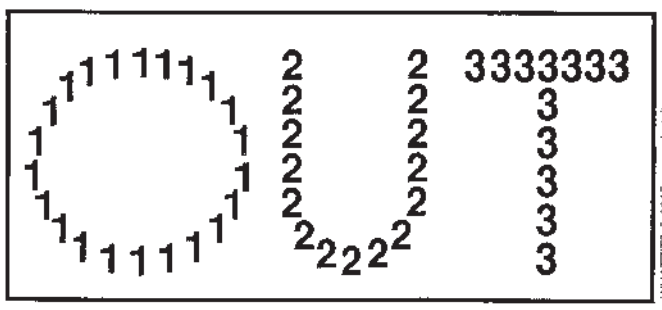
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

WHISPERING PALMS SCHOOL

Mid-Year Elementary Teaching Position has opened at Whispering Palms School on Navy Hill. We are looking for a full-time teacher for our multi-grade primary class (K-2) of 10 students to start on January 11, 2016. Qualified candidates should have an elementary teaching credential and preferably 2+ years of classroom teaching experience. If you are interested, please call 323-7451 or email your resume to: whisperingpalmsofsaipan@gmail.com

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Customers First TRIPLE J

TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC.

Immediate position available for

LIVE-IN CAREGIVER FOR THE U.S.

- Round trip airfare
- Health care experience prefered but not required
- Must be able to prepare food items
- Salary negotiable based on experience

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- U.S. citizen or Green card
- Driver's license
- Ability to speak English
- Police Clearance
- References

Drop off your resume at the
Triple J Corporate Office, Ground Floor, Surfrider Resort Hotel & Surf Club Brigida St., Chalan Kanoa
May submit resume at the
corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com
We accept applications up to September 30. 2015
NO PHONE CALL PLEASE

Triple J is an equal opportunity employer.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ACHUGAO SERVICES, LLC

Information Technology Manager

Job Purpose: Our Information Technology Manager is responsible for the oversight of the IT department. IT Management responsibilities include establishing and maintaining technical and operational requirements, researching and evaluating solutions to solve the organization's technical challenges and working with other departments to budget and allocate funds for the organization's technical equipment and software needs.

Duties:

- Reporting to the COO of the Saipan office, you will be responsible for managing the operations of the Information Technology department consistent with the budget and business plan
- Assist in the hiring and development of staff that meets the needs and requirements of the Information Technology department.
- Prepare department budget and present/submit to COO and CFO in a timely manner.
- Planning, preparing, and executing high impact meetings with client prospects and potential partners
- Helping with the preparation and translation of our marketing collaterals in to Chinese
- Maximizing revenue growth with existing accounts and our partner base
- Representing Bridge Capital at industry events and conferences

Skills/Qualifications:

- You are able to plan, organize, direct, control and evaluate the operations of information systems and electronic data processing (EDP)
- You are able to self-manage and are goal and results driven
- Your interpersonal, oral and written communication, presentation and organizational skills are excellent
- You demonstrate passion, persistence, creativity and a determination to get things done
- You have verifiable success in working in the IT industry
- Experienced in managing Windows Server environment.
- Experienced in Network Administration.
- You are familiar or able to learn our hardware and software systems (Quickbooks, Pontem Software, Quickbase, Propertyware, DNS Management, Cisco IOS, Citrix Go To Products (Assist, My PC, Meeting), Virtualization – HyperV/VMWare, Symantec PGP, Thunderbird, Outlook)
- Knowledgeable in Active Directory and Group/User Policies.
- You have experience in managing Email, Phone and Internet Systems.
- Create or recommends Information Technology strategies, security policies, and procedures.
- An undergraduate degree in Computer Science or similar is ideal
- Excellent command of written and spoken English
- Cisco (CCNA, CCNP), Comptia (A+, Network+, Security +), Microsoft (MTA, MCSA) certifications/licenses preferred.

Email resumes to: hrachugao@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1 Commercial Cleaner
$6.05/hr.
Flexible time
Work holidays

Bring resume with police clearance to:
DPA Car Mart
San Antonio, Tel# 287-8688

LOOKING FOR

Office/Warehouse Manager: Manage the storage, delivery, set-up, repair, instruction-in-use, and pick-up of home medical equipment. Company will provide all required training. Basic MS Word and Excel, Good customer service. Driver's license. PT/FT Pay and position will be based on experience.

Email or send resume:
rob@vetshi.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Local Couple Seeking Surrogate

If you are female between the ages of 21 and 40, have had at least one natural child birth, and are interested in learning more about being a surrogate, please call Karen @ 783-1367. Compensation is over $22,000.

Or receive $500 for referral of qualified candidates.

Warehouse for RENT

REM LOWERBASE

Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

www.saipantribune.com

MAKE-A-WISH

Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

G4S

Job Vacancy Announcement

(21) Security Officer

Submit applications, police clearance, and copy of certification at G4S Office located at Beach Road Ladera Building, Chalan Lau-lau.
For more information call (670) 233-3238/39 or email at cnmi@gu.g4s.com
www.g4s.mp

EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY: G4S is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Employer and observes all federal employment opportunity regulations, practices and policies. Federal Law requires presentation of proof of identity and eligibility to work in the United States. We comply with this law on a nondiscriminatory basis. Must be 18 years or older and must be able to speak, read and write English. Open to all qualified U.S. Workers without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex citizenship and is in compliance with Title II of the Genetics Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA). This job is open to all U.S. Veterans, Persons with Disabilities and Women In Non-traditional occupations that are qualified, willing, able and available to perform the job.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude. Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

FRONT DESK CLERK
(CHINESE MARKET)

Minimum of one (1) year work experience, preferably in hospitality. Previous cashiering experience is required. Must be able to write, read and speak fluently in Chinese and English. Must be able to work evenings, graveyard shifts, weekends and holidays.

FRONT DESK SUPERVISOR

Minimum of two (2) years previous experience as a Front Desk Supervisor is required. Must be resourceful, take ownership of problems and issues that arise and have excellent problem solving skills. Must have the ability to work well under pressure and to lead a team. In addition to managing the daily operations at the desk, must have the ability to provide the Front Desk Clerks with necessary training and support. Fluency in Korean, Japanese or Russian is preferred. Must be able to work graveyard shifts, evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Thursday, December 17th, 2015.

PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Looking for a way to tell everyone about your business?

You're looking at it!

Saipan Tribune **235-6397**

IP&E
Fueling Excellence

Mariana Acquisition Corporation
dba IP&E Saipan

IP&E Saipan prides itself on dedication to quality, safety and customer service. As the Shell Licensee in the Micronesian region, IP&E Saipan is the local company with global reach. IP&E Saipan is accepting applications for the following positions:

Terminal Operator

Performs dock operations duties that includes tanker receiving, barge loading, and ship bunkering. The position handles the storage, monitoring, and loading of petroleum products. The position is responsible for the safe and efficient operations of the terminal and dock.

Qualifications: Completion of high school or equivalent; plus 5 years' experience in pump operations. Special necessary knowledge, abilities, & skills: ability to work at heights up to 50 feet; ability to work in confined work spaces and the ability to lift up to 50 pounds without assistance; ability to read gauges, precision measuring instruments, manuals, and can distinguish colors.

Administrative Officer (Temporary Full-Time)

The Administrative Officer is a Temporary Full-time position responsible for effectively organizing and executing the daily administration functions related to general bookkeeping, communicating and recording of daily logs, liaising with the Corporate office and maintaining excellent customer service relationships.

A qualified candidate will have strong organizational and communication skills with attention to details; be proficient in computer use, specifically with spreadsheets and word processing; and must be able to drive. The successful candidate will also be able to multi-task and work with minimal supervision.

Interested individuals who meet the these requirements are encouraged to apply at the IP&E Saipan office, located at the Puerto Rico Terminal Office on Industrial Drive. Applications will be accepted through Monday, December 21, 2015.

As an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer, IP&E provides equal opportunity to all applicants without regard to race, color, national origin, sex/gender, age, religion, veteran status, or disability.

Shell Licensee

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY CLERK I
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court
SAIPAN

DUTIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties:

- Receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings;
- Provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system;
- Provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for the assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including, but not limited to, the document imaging and online filing system;
- Assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window;
- Prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files;
- Serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including, but not limited to, swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and,
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. There is a strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field and those with a Bachelor's Degree. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary will be $20,485 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at OPM offices in the CNMI, the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

WANTED

NEWS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a FULL-TIME news reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Above average writing skills and can work within deadlines;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
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- Track cases taken under advisement, ensure updates of same and provide periodic reports to the Clerk of Court and affected judges;
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It's over: Bucks hand Warriors 1st loss, win 108-95

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Golden State Warriors walked slowly off the Bradley Center floor, exchanging handshakes with the victorious Milwaukee Bucks on the way back to their locker room.

They're not used to losing.

The Warriors' NBA-record start ended after 24 wins when they lost to the Bucks 108-95 on Saturday night.

"We didn't have it tonight," interim coach Luke Walton said. "That's why it is so hard to do what these guys have done so far. It caught up to us."

Golden State fell to 24-1. Its 28-game winning streak, counting the final four games of last season, came to a halt. The NBA's longest winning streak was 33 by the Los Angeles Lakers in 1971-72 - and it was also snapped by Milwaukee.

"Well, we knew the streak had to end at some point," the Warriors posted on their Twitter account.

It was the way they lost that was a little surprising. This was no squeaker at the buzzer, but a Bucks runaway at the end.

Greg Monroe scored 28 points for the Bucks, who got the all-around effort needed to beat the defending NBA champions.

"When you talk about the streak, what's bigger than the streak is they're the world champs," coach Jason Kidd said. "And so, for us, we didn't talk about the streak, it was about playing the world champs."

It also helped that the Warriors, perhaps fighting fatigue after needing two overtimes to win at Boston on Friday, were cold from 3-point range. They usually make 13 a night, but were just 6 of 26 from behind the arc playing on the final game of a seven-game road trip.

Stephen Curry had 28 points on 10-of-21 shooting from the field, including 2 of 8 from 3-point territory.

Not good enough to get past the Bucks, who led by double digits for much of the night before the Warriors cut it to a point a couple times.

In each instance, there was a sense of inevitability that Golden State somehow would go on one of its breakneck-speed runs to put away another opponent.

But the Bucks had an answer each time.

"We never wavered," Monroe said.

He was 11 of 16, including a three-point play with 2:51 left for a 12-point lead.

Michael Carter-Williams' strong drive down the lane and dunk with 42 seconds left put an exclamation point on Milwaukee's night.

"We showed some spurts to get back into the game. We got some stops," Curry said. "But for 48 minutes, I don't think anybody can say we played as hard as they did."

Spurs 103, Hawks 78

In Atlanta, Kawhi Leonard scored 22 points, and San Antonio allowed only 25 first-half points in the strongest defensive effort by any NBA team this season.

The Spurs led 47-25 at halftime. The Hawks' total—13 points in the first quarter, 12 in the second—was the lowest for any NBA team in any half this season, according to STATS. The previous low was Houston's 26 second-half points on Nov. 1 at Miami.

Manu Ginobili had 17 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 13 for San Antonio, which has won six of seven.

Paul Millsap led Atlanta with 22 points, including 17 in the third quarter. No other Hawks player scored in double figures.

Clippers 105, Nets 100

In New York, Blake Griffin and J.J. Redick each scored 21 points, and the Clippers ended a seven-game, two-state road losing streak against the Nets.

Chris Paul had 15 points and 14 assists for the Clippers, who hadn't beaten the Nets on the road since Dec. 11, 2007, back when the Nets played in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Los Angeles never beat them during the Nets' brief stay in Newark and had been 0-3 in Brooklyn.

Thaddeus Young scored 18 points and Jarrett Jack had 16 points and 11 assists for the Nets, who were trying for their first three-game winning streak of the season.

Knicks 112, Trail Blazers 110

In Portland, Ore., Carmelo Anthony tied a season high with 37 points, helping the Knicks rally for the road win.

Anthony, who scored 20 points in the first half, shot 13 of 21 from the field as New York ended a four-game losing streak. Anthony finished the game by hitting six free throws during the final 30 seconds.

Former Blazers Robin Lopez and Arron Afflalo, returning to Portland for the first time since leaving the team in free agency last summer, were among six Knicks in double figures. Afflalo scored 15 points, while Lopez had 14 points and seven rebounds.

Damian Lillard led Portland with 29 points. C.J. McCollum scored 22 points, and Allen Crabbe had 15.

Rockets 126, Lakers 97

In Houston, James Harden scored 30 points, leading the Rockets to the runaway win.

A 3-pointer by Nick Young with about seven minutes left got the Lakers within 11, but a 13-2 run by Houston pushed the lead to 115-93. Donatas Motiejunas, Harden and Patrick Beverley each made a 3-pointer to cap the key stretch.

AP

Milwaukee Bucks' Michael Carter-Williams (5) dunks over Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry (30) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015, in Milwaukee.

Motiejunas had 11 points in his best game since returning from back surgery.

Kobe Bryant had 25 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Lakers, who have lost six in a row and 13 of 14.

Bulls 98, Pelicans 94

In Chicago, Pau Gasol had 18 points for Chicago, and Aaron Brooks scored 15 of his 17 in the fourth quarter.

Jimmy Butler added 15 points for the Bulls, who trailed for most of the game.

Anthony Davis and Tyreke Evans each scored 22 points for the Pelicans, who fell to 1-11 on the road. Eric Gordon added 14.

Davis tied it at 94 with a three-point play with 1:47 remaining, and Brooks' layup gave the Bulls a 96-94 lead with 40 seconds to play.

Pistons 118, Pacers 96

In Auburn Hills, Mich., Reggie Jackson had 21 points and nine assists, leading Detroit to the win.

Ersan Ilyasova added 20 points, and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope finished with 18 points, a career-high eight assists and seven rebounds. Six Pistons scored in double figures, and Andre Drummond had eight points and 11 rebounds.

George Hill led the Pacers with 14 points. Paul George finished with 13 on 4-of-16 shooting, missing all four of his 3-point attempts.

Detroit has won six of eight, including five in a row at home, while the Pacers lost for the fourth time in five games.

Celtics 98, Hornets 93

In Charlotte, N.C., Avery Bradley scored 23 points, Isaiah Thomas added 21 points and 13 assists, and Boston snapped Charlotte's four-game winning streak.

Jae Crowder added 16 points and seven rebounds for the Celtics (14-10), who have won seven of their last 10 games. Boston bounced back after a heartbreaking double-overtime loss on Friday night to Stephen Curry and NBA-leading Golden State.

The Hornets had a chance to tie the game late but Nicolas Batum's 30-foot jumper off a side inbounds play with 6.6 seconds remaining missed everything. Evan Turner put away the game with a layup.

Batum led the Hornets with 21 points and eight rebounds, and Kemba Walker had 16 points.

Wizards 114, Mavericks 111

In Dallas, Otto Porter scored a career-high 28 points, John Wall had 26 points and 16 assists, and Washington ended an 11-game losing streak against Dallas.

Washington had not beaten Dallas since Oct. 27, 2009. The Wizards were playing their second straight game without Bradley Beal, who is expected to miss at least two weeks with a right leg injury.

Porter more than picked up the slack, scoring 17 points during Washington's 39-point third quarter as the Wizards built a 21-point lead.

Wesley Matthews led the Mavericks with 28 points, including six 3-pointers.

Dolph Schayes, big man with a guard's flair, dies at 87

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP)—Hall of Famer Dolph Schayes, a 12-time All-Star who refined the big man's role in the infancy of the National Basketball Association, has died. He was 87.

Schayes was diagnosed with terminal cancer six months ago and died Thursday after being stricken with a severe infection, his son Danny Schayes said.

Dolph Schayes was the franchise player for the old Syracuse Nationals from 1948-1963 and was voted one of the 50 greatest players in NBA history. He revolutionized the post position, always in perpetual motion instead of just planting himself in the paint.

As a 16-year-old freshman center, Schayes led New York University to the NCAA Final Four. He played his entire 16-season career with the Syracuse franchise, scoring 18,438 points and snaring 11,256 rebounds from 1949-64.

The 6-foot-8 Schayes was a seminal figure in the game. With a deadly two-handed, high-arcing set shot that he stubbornly used well into the era of the jump shot, he helped redefine the big man in the NBA.

"Dolph Schayes was one of the most influential figures in NBA history," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said in a statement. "He helped the NBA grow from its earliest days, emerging as one of the game's first stars and displaying the kind of passion for competition and commitment to excellence that has come to define our league."

Schayes grew up in the Bronx during the Great Depression and delivered laundry for cash. He honed his game in the schoolyards of Junior High 79 and DeWitt Clinton High School.

"When we played basketball I did everything. I passed, I dribbled, I played outside," said Schayes, who was 6-5 at age 11.

The New York Knicks chose Schayes fourth in the 1948 Basketball Association of America draft and the Tri-Cities Blackhawks picked him first in the National Basketball League before trading his rights to Syracuse.

After winning NBA rookie of the year honors in 1949, Schayes led the Nationals in scoring for 12 straight seasons and helped lead the team to its lone NBA title in 1955, becoming the first player in NBA history to score 15,000 points.

"Dolph is a legendary figure in Syracuse," said Jim Boeheim, longtime coach of the Syracuse Orange. "He was an all-time great, great player. His camp had a big influence on me."

When the Nationals moved to Philadelphia in 1963, Schayes was named player-coach of the 76ers. He retired as a player after the season, but stayed on as coach for three more seasons and was named NBA coach of the year in 1966 with Wilt Chamberlain, Hal Greer and Billy Cunningham.

Alabama's super-sized running back wins Heisman

NEW YORK (AP)—Hand it to Derrick Henry.

Alabama's bulldozer of a tailback with the super-sized workload won the Heisman Trophy on Saturday night after carrying the Crimson Tide offense for most of the season.

"I'm just so thankful to have this trophy," Henry said. "It's just a blessing and an honor."

The 6-foot-3, 242-pound Henry is the second Alabama player to win the Heisman, joining running back Mark Ingram. Since Ingram won the award in 2009, it had gone to five straight quarterbacks.

Stanford's do-it-all running back Christian McCaffrey, who broke the NCAA record for all-purpose yards in a season, was the runner-up, making it four second-place finishes for Cardinal players in seven years.

Deshaun Watson, quarterback of No. 1 Clemson, finished third.

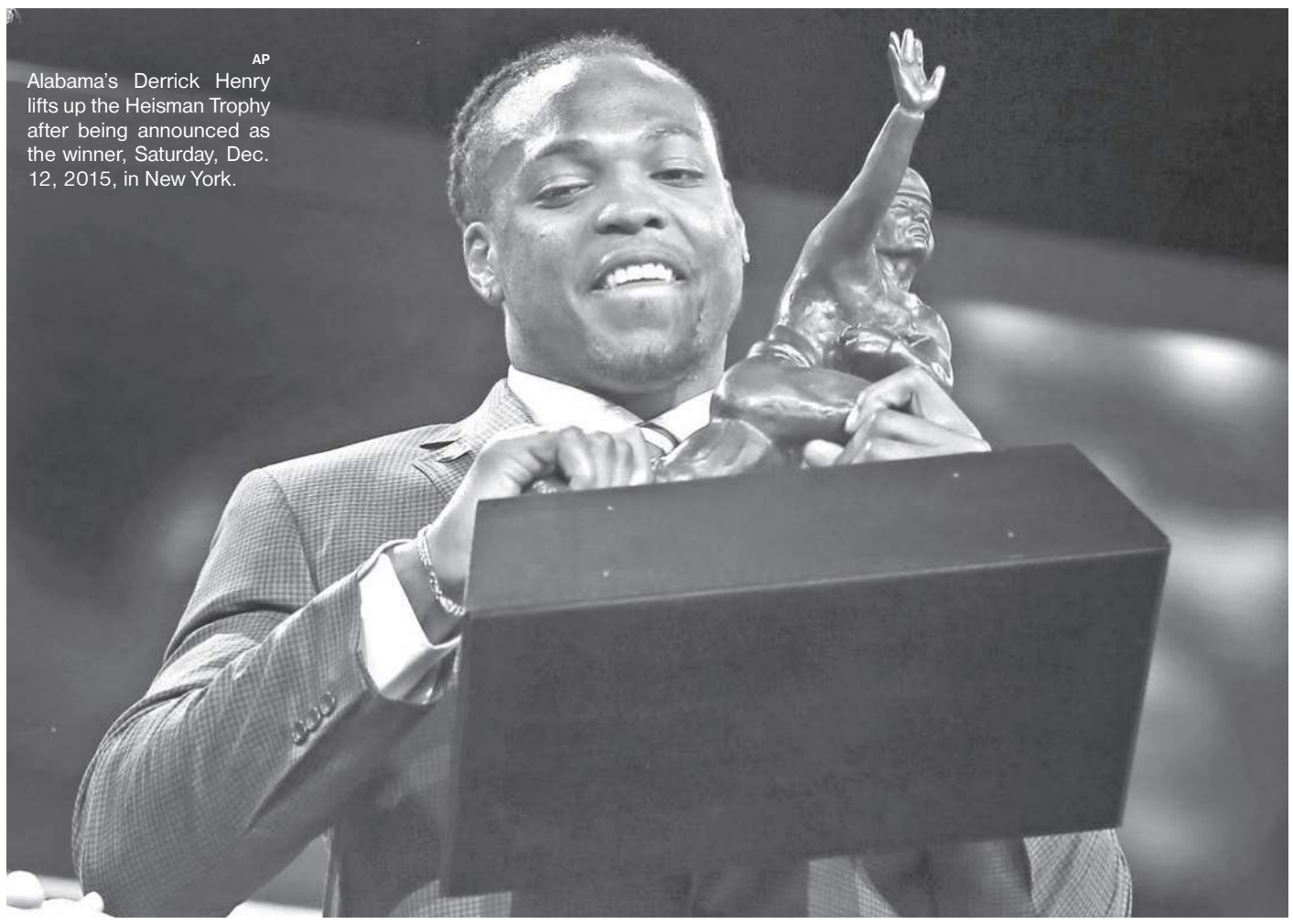
Henry was considered the favorite going in, though it didn't make it any easier for him.

"I didn't know at all," he said. "Them two guys were great contenders for the trophy. Deshaun, with how consistent and efficient he is at the quarterback position, all the success he had, I was kind of worried. Christian, breaking Barry Sanders' record, doing all the things he does, he's just unbelievable."

The moment right before the winner was announced was the toughest for Henry.

"My heart was about to bust out my chest. I thought I was going to have a heart attack," he said.

It was the closest Heisman voting 2011, when Baylor's Robert Griffin beat out Stanford's Andrew Luck by 280 points, but still a comfortable victory for Henry. He received 1,832 points, 293 more than McCaffrey (1,539). Watson received the third-most points for a third-place finisher with 1,165.



AP

Alabama's Derrick Henry lifts up the Heisman Trophy after being announced as the winner, Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015, in New York.

Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield came in fourth and Navy quarterback Keenan Reynolds was fifth, but Henry, McCaffrey and Watson dominated the voting.

Henry broke the Southeastern Conference record with 1,986 yards rushing—previously held by 1982 Heisman winner Herschel Walker - and matched a league mark with 23 touchdowns, leading No. 2 Alabama to the College Football Playoff. He also set an Alabama record with 339 carries, including an astounding 90 in the Tide's last two games.

"I know that our entire organization is really happy, happy, happy for Derrick Henry tonight, winning the Heisman Trophy," Alabama coach Nick Saban said.

Henry choked up during his speech, thanking family, coaches and teammates, and mentioning former Alabama teammate Altee Tenpenny, who was killed in a car crash two months ago.

Henry was born to teenage parents and raised with the strong influence of his grandmother, Gladys, in the small north Florida country town of Yulee, just outside of Jacksonville.

Gladys Henry has been hospitalized for weeks in Florida with heart and respiratory problems. Derrick Henry said his grandmother was with him in spirit as his childhood dream of winning the Heisman came true.

"I love you so much," he said during his speech.

Henry came to Alabama as a five-star recruit. Before the Heisman came a dose of humility. For the first time football wasn't easy.

"One day I said something to him and he said, 'Coach, all this stuff is new to me. All they did in high school was turn around and toss me the ball and I ran with it,'" Saban said. "I really appreciate his hard work at becoming a complete player."

Henry was a backup on a crowded depth chart as a freshman and thought about transferring, but with the encouragement of his family decided to stay put.

As a sophomore he shared carries with T.J. Yeldon and ran for 990 yards and 11 touchdowns.

This season as a junior, with Alabama breaking in a first-time starting quarterback and inexperienced receivers, the Tide hooked its offense to Henry and let him lead the way. When injuries hit Alabama's other running backs, Henry picked up that slack, too.

He had four 200-yard games in the second half of the season. He went for 210 against LSU to move to the front of the Heisman race, and had 271 yards in the Iron Bowl against Auburn.

Weary defenses got plenty of looks at big No. 2 from behind, his long bundled locks sticking out of the back of his helmet. The Crimson Tide's Predator.

After Ingram won the Heisman in '09, he helped Alabama win the national championship about a month later. Henry will try to do the same. The Tide faces Michigan State in the Cotton Bowl on Dec. 31, trying to earn a fourth national championship in nine seasons under Saban.

Henry has not announced his intentions yet, but a jump to the NFL seems likely after this season.

Alabama has placed its championship hopes on Henry's broad shoulders and he has delivered.

"Roll Tide," Henry said as he wrapped up his speech.

Freeney, Cardinals clinch playoff spot, stop Vikings, 23-20

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Dwight Freeney considered retirement. A month into the season he still wasn't on a team. Then the Arizona Cardinals came calling, looking to boost their troubled pass rush.

The 35-year-old veteran of 14 NFL seasons helped a whole bunch Thursday night.

Freeney stripped the ball from Teddy Bridgewater with 5 seconds remaining to deprive the Vikings a chance at the tying field goal, and the Cardinals clinched a playoff berth with a 23-20 victory over Minnesota.

"That's why I came back, because moments like this, you can't duplicate those in life," Freeney said.

Bridgewater moved the Vikings to the Arizona 31-yard line, well within the range of Blair Walsh. But Freeney hit the quarterback's arm as Bridgewater tried to pass. The ball came loose and Calais Campbell recovered for Arizona.

"To be able to have this type of dream situation, fourth quarter, game on the line, it's kind of like ninth inning, two outs," Freeney said, "one of those situations for a defensive lineman, and I was able to make a play."

Arizona coach Bruce Arians said the Vikings "were in field goal range for sure. It was a great play by him and that's why he's going to the Hall of Fame."

Bridgewater said he "had a clear understanding of the situation" when the play unfolded.

"We didn't have any timeouts, couldn't afford to get tackled in bounds," he said. "The play was designed to push the ball down a little and allow our guy to make the catch and get out of bounds. I had that clock going off in my head. I was ready to throw."

Chandler Catanzaro's 47-yard field goal with 1:23 to go was the winning score as Arizona (11-2) won its seventh in a row.

Bridgewater passed for 335 yards and a touchdown for the Vikings (8-5), who were playing without four defensive starters but made it close after being embarrassed at home by Seattle 38-7 on Sunday.

Carson Palmer threw for 310 yards and two touchdowns for the Cardinals, who will win the NFC West if Seattle loses Sunday at Baltimore.

Minnesota's Adrian Peterson wanted more carries than the eight he got (for 9 yards) against the Seahawks. He got them, carrying 23 times for 69 yards, but had only 31 yards on 19 attempts after his 9-yard touchdown run on the Vikings' first possession of the night.

Palmer connected on scoring plays of 65 yards to John Brown and 42 to Michael Floyd. His 30th and 31st touchdown passes broke the franchise record of 30 set by Kurt Warner in Arizona's 2008 Super Bowl season.

Floyd caught five passes for 102 yards. David Johnson, the rookie who stepped in when the Cardinals' top two backs were hurt, rushed for 92 yards in 19 attempts.

After Walsh's 54-yard field goal cut the Arizona lead to 20-13 and the Cardinals failed to convert on third-and-1, the Vikings went 88 yards in 11 plays, tying it 20-20 on Bridgewater's third-down, 7-yard touchdown pass to Mike Wallace with 4:50 remaining.

Arizona moved downfield and left guard Mike Iupati caught a deflected pass for 10 yards in the drive to the decisive field goal.

The Vikings fumbled the ball away three times: once deep in Arizona territory; again near midfield to lead to a Cardinals touchdown; and finally when Freeney, who signed with Arizona on Oct. 13, burst around the left side of the Minnesota line to knock the ball away and preserve the victory.

Peterson had one of the fumbles on what was supposed to be a reverse. Josh Mauro knocked the ball away from him and Alex Okafor recovered at the Arizona 43. Five plays later, Palmer threw to Floyd, who followed Larry Fitzgerald's crunching block and raced down the sideline for the touchdown that made it 17-10

AP

Arizona Cardinals defensive end Calais Campbell (93) holds up the football after a fumble recovery for the win against the Minnesota Vikings during the second half of an NFL football game, Thursday, Dec. 10, 2015, in Glendale, Ariz.

Tan Holdings tourney jumpstarts tennis season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association got off to a promising start after the staging of its first tournament for the 2015-2016 season—the 7th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

The two-weekend tournament drew a huge turnout with Guam and Hong Kong players joining a host of Saipan bets. The annual competition also lured a lot of newcomers and family members together and a record 18 players in the mini tennis tourney. For the first time, results of the games were updated and posted in a website through the similar program used by the International Tennis Federation.

"This is a great start for CNMI tennis this season. I hope we could sustain it with more tournaments coming next year. It's always great to see new players, especially younger ones, competing. They are the future of CNMI tennis," NMITA president Jeff Race said during the awards ceremony for the 7th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic held last Dec. 6 at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

"Thank you to tournament director Lydia Tan and to Jerry Tan of the Tan Holdings family. They've been with us in the past several years and are very supportive to our program. Thank you to the coaches, too, past and present, for helping develop our players," Race added.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president Jeff Race, left, poses with the younger division winners of the 7th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic during its awards banquet held last Dec. 6 at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Meanwhile, Jerry Tan said they will continue to host an annual tournament for CNMI junior and adult players.

"As long as you want to play, we will have a tournament for you," the Tan Holdings president said. "We are very proud to be part of one of the very successful sports programs on the island. Thanks to coach Jeff and to the parents of players who are always behind their children during practices and tournaments, bringing them to the court and picking them up after each game."

After the Tan Holdings tournament, NMITA will have the Coconut Classic in February, the PIC Tennis Championships in March, the CNMI National Junior Championships in April, a Junior ITF ranking event in May, and the 2016 North Pacific Regional Championships. The group will also compete in the annual Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji in August.

Cuki to hold open grappling tournament

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Trench Tech promoter Cuki Alvarez is inviting all interested individuals and other mixed martial arts gyms to join an open house grappling tournament on Saturday, Dec. 19, from 10am to 4pm at the Trench Tech Gym in Garapan.

Those who are interested in joining must get in touch with Alvarez to give them their name and weight class. There is no entry fee required and spectators can also watch all grappling matches for free.

Alvarez said he would make the brackets once the list of all competitors is completed. Cash prizes will be given away instead of medals to the winners of each weight division.

Fight fans will be again treated to witness the origin of mixed martial arts as fighters are expected to show the highly technical side of grappling and submission fighting.

In July this year, Alvarez held the Art of War IX: Grappling, Submission and Jiu jitsu Challenge at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai where his nephew, Roman "Sonic" Boom" Alvarez, went home with three gold meals in three weight divisions.

Alvarez ruled the open weight gi event to highlight his three-gold medal haul. He went undefeated in the tournament where he also topped the lightweight and welterweight divisions.

The Trench Tech fighter defeated stablemate and former wrestler Adam Harris in a winner-take-all match for the gold in the open weight gi division aside from beating cousin Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez and Jasper Van Der Maas in the welterweight and lightweight categories.

In other news, bemedalled Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu champion Mike Fowler canceled his planned trip to Saipan because of work-related issues.

Cuki Alvarez said he just found out of the news on Thursday morning. Fowler was due to arrive on Saipan at 1pm Thursday where he was going to give a weeklong seminar and training in submission grappling.

Alvarez apologized to all those who are expecting to learn more about grappling and jiu-jitsu from the former high school wrestler Fowler, who holds a black belt in BJJ.

Fowler, a many-time medalist in the Asian Open Championship, was originally set to arrive in September but with Saipan still without power, water, and recovering from the lashing of Typhoon Soudelor, his trip was postponed.

Dart Vader gets early lead in Fanihi division

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Mike Dela Cruz and Peter Togawa showed last Thursday that the force is strong within them as the duo did not drop a match to lead the VFW Dart Vader's to a 13-2 crushing of the Oleai Team Fearless in the Fanihi Division of the Bud Light-SEDA Winter/Spring 2016 season.

Dela Cruz and Togawa combined for eight of VFW's number of wins to push the Dart Vader's record to 25-5 with the 6JMS Mafia II closely behind at 23-7 in the eight-team field. The Doro's Life After Darts hold an 18-12 mark while the Jokers Parakeyu! are a distant fourth (14-16).

Doro's Alamo Dragons (13-17), Jokers Preba Darts (11-19), 6JMS Ta-Chagi Talo! (9-21), and the Team Fearless (7-23) complete the standings.

Ricky Casugay (Singles Double In/Double Out), Donovan "C.O.D." Castro and Byron "Sweets" Kaneshi (Partners Crazy Cricket or Random Cricket) gave Fearless the two wins.

The Mafia II drubbed Ta-Chagi Talo!, 12-13, the Dragons completed a 10-5 decision over the Parakeyu! while the Life After Darts escaped with an 8-7 victory against the Preba Darts in the other Fanihi B division contests. The rest of the results from last week are below:

A Division
- Predators 13, Proofers 4
- Shockers 12, No Fear 5
- Mafia 10, Hunters 7
- Snipers 9, Sakude 8

Tuesday B
- Chamberos 12, Dabarkads 3
- Spartans 13, Warriors 2
- Hot Points 9, G-Side Shooters 6
- Northern Lights 9, Shockerz 6

Masters
- Dart Daddies 13, Darteros 4
- Nakayoshi 12, Pythons 5

C Division
- Puntan I Langit 13, Just Dart It 2
- Dartcom 11, Jump It 4
- Mixed Nuts 10, B-Busters 5
- Spartans 8, Blue Koi 7

Flame Tree
- Ridin'Darrty 12, Oneshot 3
- Latter Sparts 11 Kyodai 4
- Serial Killaz 8, No Fear 7
- Na'Gupu 8, Jokers 7

TAN

From Page 28

De Leon. Kim then completed the hat-trick just one minute after Perez lit up the board, as the former also challenged Bucayo and hit the running header.

After the securing a 4-0 lead in the first half, Tan Holdings focused on defense and used the clock to foil Matansa's bid for another upset.

Earlier in the semifinals, Matansa stunned dethroned champion MP United, 3-1. Matansa got goals from three different players to end MP United's reign in the annual tournament. MP United topped the first four editions of the FA Challenge Cup before that fateful loss to Matansa, which has never won against the former's U18 squad in the NMIFA youth league.

Evan Belcher knocked in Matansa's first goal, finding his target in the 26th minute, while Ryu Tanzawa made it a 2-0 advantage with his conversion in the 43rd. A goal from Jamesbonie Valdez four minutes later sealed it for Matansa, while MP United avoided a shutout after Alex Park scored in the 52nd.

MP United made an outright entry into the semifinals as it was seeded in the six-team field along with Tan Holdings U18, while Matansa had to beat first Tan Holdings U15, 6-0, to march into the Final Four. Matansa clobbered Tan Holdings U15 after drawing goals from Nolan Gatharngeg, Kenneth and David Mafnas, Carlson Cruzat, Chad Shankweiler, and Belcher.

Matansa's upset against MP United served as a lesson for Tan Holdings.

"We're much aware of Matansa's ability to win against top-ranked squads like MP United. So, going into the finals, I kept reminding our players not to be complacent. They were told to stick to the game plan, which was to be aggressive on offense early and keep pressuring Matansa's attackers," Angeles said.

"When we scored early and got three more goals in the first half, I told them to concentrate on defense in the second half. We have so much respect for Matansa, especially after they beat MP United so we made sure we challenged them for every possession in the finals," the Tan Holdings mentor added.

Angeles and his wards arranged a title showdown against Matansa after eliminating Paire U18 in the other semis pairing, 1-0. Joel Fruit registered the lone goal in the match off a penalty kick in the 54th minute. Paire U18, on the other hand, booted out Kanoa U15, 1-0, to book a semis berth. Carl Allison posted the winning goal for Paire in the 22nd minute.

Meanwhile, Kim was awarded the Golden Boot trophy at the end of the one-day tournament, while Tan Holdings keeper Joshua Galarion received the Golden Glove plum. Tan Holdings took the perpetual FA Challenge Cup, which was handed by NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta.

LEE

From Page 28

7-10. Tan, on the other hand, suffered a 1-4, 1-4 beating against McKenzie, who along with Smith completed a sweep after topping Tan and Guitton in the doubles, 4-1, 4-1.

Pacific Oceania's girls U14 crew also fell to the unbeaten and Pool B leader New South Wales, 0-3, in yesterday morning's pairing to kiss their semis bid goodbye. Only the Top 2 teams in Pools A and B will make it to the semifinals, while the remaining squads will fight for rankings. Pacific Oceania was scheduled to play its last pool game yesterday afternoon against third-seeded and second-running Western Australia.

Against NSW, Lee put up a good fight versus Patricia Apisah before losing another super tiebreaker match, 6-4, 0-5, 5-10. Lee played her longest match so far in the tournament with her singles game against Apisah lasting for 3:52:00. In the doubles, Lee paired anew with Guitton and they were defeated by Apisah and Krystal Clarke, 4-6, 3-6. In the second singles game, Caitlyn Portela outclassed Tan, 6-2, 6-1.

In the boys U14 division, Pacific Oceania went 0-3 in Pool C and got only one win out of the nine matches it played.

Tahiti's Jeremy Guines handed Pacific Oceania its lone victory in the pool as he swept Australian Capital Territory's Jack Atallrida Lyons, 4-0, 4-2, in the first singles match last Saturday. Guines teammates were the CNMI's Robbie Schorr and Ken Song.

The trio lost to Australian Capital Territory, 1-2, and also bowed to NSW, 0-3, and Queensland, 0-3. Schorr and company were playing in the consolation round (battle for No. 9 to 16 place) yesterday.

Pacific Oceania's girls U12 team suffered the same fate, as it dropped its matches against Japan, South Australia, and NSW in similar scores, 3-0. The CNMI's Conatsu Kaga and Samoa's Eleanor Schuster and Saoirse Breen made up the squad.

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friend here for a short vacation on Saipan and while here, I decided to also spar with some of the Trench Tech fighters so I remained in shape," said Kwak through translator Rey Kim, a Trench Tech Gym member and one of his friends on Saipan.

Kwak, given the nickname "Handsome" by his coach and Korean Top Team co-founder Dongjin Ha, made his mixed martial arts debut on Saipan with a technical knockout win over Derrick Rangamar in Trench Warz 17: Night of Champions on Dec. 13, 2013.

The KTT fighter, ranked third among 94 active bantamweights in Korea, said he has been continuously training even after winning the vacant Top FC 135-lb belt by way of TKO against Han Bin Park last Aug. 15.

"I've been preparing hard for my fight next year. Although I love striking, where I like to go at it with my opponents, I'm also working on my take down and submission," added Kwak, who has a third degree black belt in taekwondo and a second dan black belt in judo.

He said that aside from watching videos of his opponents' past fights, he also likes to watch videos of his previous bouts to review his moves.

"Just like in my previous fight against Trevin Jones, I know that I did not did well against him. I wasn't satisfied with the way I fought," said Kwak, who won by split decision against Jones in PXC 47 in March of this year.

"That's why I also watch videos of my past fights to correct my mistakes and study how to make adjustments if I faced certain situations while fighting," added Kwak.

Kwak, after warming up and honing his submission skills, sparred with Trench Tech promoter Cuki Alvarez and Trench Tech fighters Mike Muna and Renz Benghit.

COPSSA Boys High School Volleyball League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School players and coaches pose with their championship trophy after beating Mt. Carmel School in the finals of the boys high school division of the 2015-2016 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League early this month at the SIS court.

Grace Christian Academy's Josiah Trinidad leaps for a spike.

Saipan International School's Daniel Lim, right, scores against Grace Christian Academy blockers during their semis game.

Two Grace Christian Academy players tower above the net during their semis match versus Saipan International School.

Grace Christian Academy's Mark Versoza serves against Saipan International School.

Saipan International School's Colin Ramsey sets up for a teammate.

Saipan International School's Luther Lizama hits a soft shot against three Mt. Carmel School defenders.

Saipan International School's Allen Cepeda tosses the ball up.

Mt. Carmel School's Quinn Amog makes a bump.

Mt. Carmel School's Seok Jun Yun goes up for a spike during their title match against Saipan International School.

It's over: Bucks hand Warriors 1st loss, win 108-95

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Tan Holdings tourney jumpstarts tennis season

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Tan Holdings rules Challenge Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2015 FA Youth Challenge Cup has a new champion in the Tan Holdings U18 squad.

The Jershwin Angeles-coached team ruled this year's competition after shutting down Matansa Football Club U18 in the finale, 4-0, last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Cosmos Kim led the title victory, as he made a hat-trick. Sean Perez scored the other goal. Kim gave Tan Holdings an early goal, as he found the back of the net in the third minute of the one-hour match. He nailed his first goal off a rebound inside the penalty area, as Matansa's defense had yet to settle in.

Kim's second goal came off a feed from Sean Perez in the 13th minute, while the latter recorded the team's third goal five minutes later after getting a pass from Joel Fruit from left field and kicking the ball in against the defense of Matansa goalie John Joseph Bucayo and Joshua

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tan Holdings FC U18's Sean Perez, right, and Matansa U18's Joshua De Leon ward off each other as they battle for possession during the second half of their title match in the 2015 FA Youth Challenge Cup last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Top FC champ Kwak takes 'a break' on Saipan

JON PEREZ
Current Top FC bantamweight champion Kwan Ho Kwak, fourth left, joins Trench Tech fight promoter Cuki Alvarez, third left, and Trench Tech Gym members, from left, Joel Subang, Renz Benghit, Mike Muna, and Rey Kim after their training sessions last Friday at the Trench Tech Gym in Garapan.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Reigning Top Fighting Championship bantamweight king Kwan Ho "Handsome" Kwak was on Saipan last week to accompany his girlfriend Kuseul Oh, who hasn't been to the island.

The two were also on Saipan and to experience the warmer weather. Temperatures in South Korea, particularly in the capital Seoul, currently hover from 35ºF to 45ºF (1ºC to 7ºC),

The Korean couple arrived in Monday last week, Dec. 7, and left Saipan last Friday. Kwak took a much-needed break from his preparation and training camp for his upcoming match against Guam's Kyle Aguon in next month's Pacific Xtreme Combat 51.

The Namyangju City-born Kwak, undefeated after seven fights with six by way of knockout, will take on PXC bantamweight champion Aguon (9-4) on Jan. 16, Saturday, at the Solaire Resort and Casino's Grand Ballroom in Parañaque City in the Philippines.

This will be Kwak's second fight in the PXC, which will also feature Filipino bets Crisanto Pitpitunge (8-3, with 3 knockouts) and Jinel Lanusa facing off for the PXC flyweight belt.

It was not just purely vacation for the 27-year-old Kwak, who also likes to run uphill for conditioning, as he also sparred and trained with Trench Tech fighters every night at the Trench Tech Gym in Garapan.

"I just want to bring my girl-

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Lee tows Pacific Oceania to debut win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Carol Lee-led Pacific Oceania Team won its debut in the 2015 12U & 14U Australian Teams Championships last Saturday at Melbourne Park.

Pacific Oceania was pitted against Australian Capital Territory in the morning match and pulled off a 2-1 victory at Court 19, thanks to Lee's pair of wins.

The CNMI player put Pacific Oceania on the board after surviving Annerly Poulos in a super tiebreaker third set, 2-4, 5-3, 10-8. Lee wrapped up the extended match after three hours and 23 minutes, according to the tournament's website.

The 13-year-old then teamed up with Tahiti's Naia Guitton in downing Poulus and Matina Ujdur in the deciding doubles match, 4-2, 4-0, to give Pacific Oceania a good start in the five-team Pool B. Lee and Guitton needed to prevail in the lone doubles tiff as the latter dropped her singles match versus Ujdur, 4-2, 4-5 (3), 9-11.

Lee and company played back-to-back games last Saturday, as they also challenged Queensland in the afternoon match. Queens went on to secure the victory early after Lee and fellow CNMI player Tania Tan bowed to Megan Smith and Naomi Moi McKenzie, respectively. Lee had another lung-busting match, losing to Smith in a nearly three-hour match (2:49:00), 5-4 (5), 3-5,

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OCEANIA TENNIS
The CNMI's Carol Lee waits for a shot from her opponent during the 2015 14/U Australian Championships last week at the Melbourne Park.